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HOW DOES TORONTO RANK?
Toronto's Vital Signs in Tomorrow's METRO

Treasure hunter sent on wild goose chase

PRANKSTER An Illinois woman who set out on a treasure hunt for buried gold coins after finding a cryptic note in an antique chair may have been the victim of a prolific prankster.

With help of a donated backhoe, Patty Henken recently tore up a vacant lot in Springfield, Ill., where a typewritten note signed by "Chauncey Wolcott" — found in a chair — suggested she would find a chest containing $250 in U.S. gold coins. But the dig turned up nothing but bricks and old bottles. Henken planned to return tomorrow, but the treasure note's promise may already be debunked.

An Iowa woman who read news accounts of the hunt said she knows Wolcott's true identity: John (Jay) Slaven, a notorious practical joker and coin collector who often used a typewriter in his pranks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rae Whitton, 23, leads the Whitton family in her save the tatas T-shirt as they do their part in the CIBC Run for the Cure that took place along University Avenue in Toronto yesterday.

Running on hope

Thousands in city lace up to fight breast cancer, raising $4.1M

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

They came for Janet. They came for Marg. They came for Karen. They came for Cheri. They came for sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, friends and wives. They came for all women.

But ultimately, the tens of thousands of participants who came out to the 18th annual CIBC Run for the Cure in Toronto — the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's annual five-kilometre run/one-kilometre walk — were there to raise funds for breast cancer research, education and awareness programs.

Their ultimate hope, of course, is a cure for the disease that is considered the most common type of cancer among women in Canada and will affect nearly 23,000 across the country this year.

During the opening ceremonies in Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto MP Olivia Chow made an emotional speech before a sea of thousands clad in pink and white.

"We run for the love of life and all its glory and for the joy we share with our family and friends," she said as the crowd erupted in applause.

"We want to express our love for those around us who have been touched by breast cancer. And we want to encourage them to fight on and to live. We also want to fill this deep sorrow of the hole in our heart left behind by those who lost the battle with breast cancer."

After a group warm up, energized participants headed to the start line on Queen Street before running and walking up University Avenue to Queen's Park and back.

One woman who came was Yvonne Bland, a breast cancer survivor, who has been participating in the run for the past eight years with her family and friends.

In that time, they've raised $150,000.

Yesterday, along with 50 of her supporters donning pink boas and hats, including her parents who flew over from Scotland for the occasion, Bland walked with the hope for a cure.

"There's a number of my chemo buddies from 2002 and everyone comes to support the cause," she said.

Countrywide effort

- In total, $26.5 million was raised across Canada, with similar events in 56 communities and an estimated 170,000 people taking part.
- Toronto alone saw 28,000 people take part, raising $4.1 million.

Dominatrix challenging prostitution law in court

SEX WORKERS If she could do it herself, Terri-Jean Bedford would strike down Canada's prostitution laws, perhaps using the riding crop she plans to bring to court. Instead, the Toronto dominatrix and two other sex workers have launched a sweeping constitutional challenge to the legislation, arguing it perpetuates violence against women.

The landmark case gets underway tomorrow in a University Avenue courtroom where Bedford, in a nod to traditionalism, is promising to arrive well-dressed, even if she is packing a tool of her trade.

"You never know when you might run across a naughty boy, or a naughty judge," she teased.

The 49-year-old Toronto grandmother, along with prostitutes Valerie Scott, 51, and Amy Lebovitch, 30, is asking Ontario's Superior Court of Justice to invalidate Criminal Code provisions that serve as Canada's policy response to the world's oldest profession.

Critics say the move would make the city and Canada, a sex-tourism location.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Argument

- They argue that prohibitions on keeping a common bawdy house, communicating for the purposes of prostitution and living on the avails of the trade force them from the safety of their homes to the insecurity of the street, where they are exposed to physical and psychological violence.

News on the Move

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World pg 15

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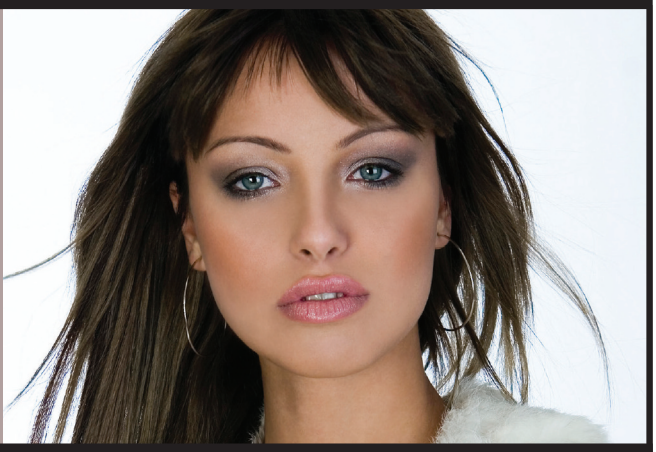

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Local

Toronto 18 member in jail 2 more years

A convicted member of the Toronto 18 group that plotted terrorist bomb attacks on Canadian targets will have to stay behind bars for up to two more years. Ali Dirie, 26, sketch at left, was formally sentenced to seven years in prison on Friday. But after allowances for several years he has already spent in custody, he must spend only two more years behind bars — and he can apply for parole after 12 months. Justice Bruce Durno rejected defence arguments that time Dirie spent in isolation should be credited at three to one. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

National Report
Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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What's online today.

Analysis Across Europe, leftist politicians are losing their clout amid a string of scandals and economic misery at **metronews.ca/world**

Video Harper does his best Ringo Starr for a black-tie gala in Ottawa at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Firefighter memorial unveiled

Three-quarters of defaced structure restored at cost of $400K

It's unnerving to see a firefighter cry. Especially a veteran like Terry Colburn who — with his imposing figure and bushy moustache — looks just like the strong, silent type that would run into, not out of, a burning building.

A district vice-president with the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, Colburn took it personally when vandals defaced the provincial firefighters' memorial at Queen's Park in May 2008. Streaked with spray paint were the names of fallen men and women beside whom the St. Catharines' man had battled blazes for 32 years.

"I worked with him," Colburn says after a moment of choked silence, his finger trembling as he points to the name of James Copeland, a senior inspector who died in 2000.

A new memorial was unveiled yesterday, as Ontario's firefighters gathered, as they do every year, to honour those who died in the line of duty. Tartan-clad pipe and drum regiments from across the province led hundreds of firefighters into the service to remember their colleagues and view the monument.

TORONTO STAR/MICHAEL STUPARYK

Jacob McLellan, age 5, from Kingston, talks with Kingston firefighter Jeff Olejnik before the new memorial ceremony yesterday. McLellan raised $200 for the restoration of the vandalized memorial. His firefighter suit was bought off the Internet.

One of the 28 names being added that rainy afternoon was William Closs, a retired captain in Toronto who died of a brain tumour related to his years working around smoke and flames. In all, 500 names are listed on a grouping of granite slabs that surround a bronze statue of a masked firefighter saving a child.

The renovation was expensive; three-quarters of the original monument had to be replaced after the incident. The original stones weren't treated to allow for easy removal of ink or paint, and it was impossible to erase the scrawled political and anti-firefighter slogans.

"It's amazing that an eight-dollar can of paint caused $400,000 worth of damage," says Colburn, who sits on the memorial committee that oversees the site.

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City's bike station has bumpy start

COMMUTE It is the kind of facility planners and cyclists have long insisted Toronto needs to encourage green commuting. But celebration over the May 26 opening of Canada's first bike storage station, at Union Station, was muted by the city workers' strike this summer.

So the city is trying again to spread the word about its new answer to many of the woes that befall urban cyclists.

On Friday it held an open house in which the bike station's high-security doors were flung open with an offer of coffee, muffins and brochures.

Toronto's version doesn't have the fancy showers and café of the bike station in Chicago's Millennium Park. But it does provide a secure refuge from theft and vandalism.

With a rack of tools and a vending machine that dispenses tire tubes, as well as snacks, it is a haven for fixing flats, and there's a clean room where cyclists can exchange their sweaty duds for office wear.

The $400,000 Union Station facility is considered a pilot, the prelude to a bigger bike station to be built at City Hall next year that will accommodate up to 400 bikes.

In the first month, 60 people bought the $25 lifetime memberships that give them 24-hour access. There are about 90 members now — but there's space for 180 bikes. From November through March, members will be permitted to park for a month at a time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Missing, murdered aboriginal 'sisters' remembered in vigil

Just before she disappeared in 1999, Brenda Wolfe worked as a waitress and bouncer on the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Brenda fell victim to serial killer Robert Pickton, the B.C. pig farmer who preyed upon vulnerable women.

Wolfe's 16-year-old daughter Angel and her stepmother Bridget Perrier came to remember Brenda at the Sisters in Spirit vigil held yesterday at the Native Women's Resource Centre in Toronto.

It was the fourth annual vigil to commemorate the more than 500 aboriginal women who have gone missing or have been murdered in the last 30 years.

Research by the Native Women's Association of Canada shows that most of these cases go unsolved, and that law enforcement can be slow to put resources into the investigations, particularly if the women had a history of drug use or prostitution. Human rights activists are calling for a national plan to deal with crime and violence against aboriginal women.

Sisters in Spirit vigils were also slated for 40 other cities across Canada yesterday.

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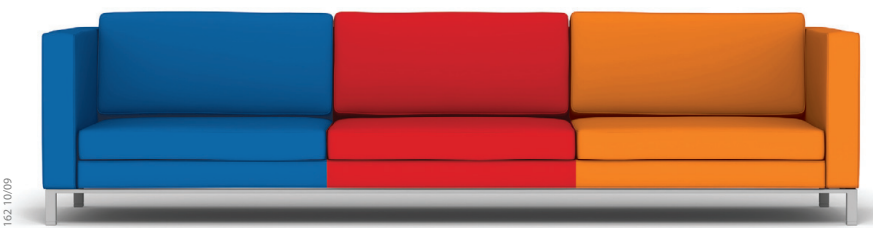

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Man found guilty in street-racing death

A Mississauga man has been found guilty in a wild highway racing incident that left a 48-year-old truck driver dead. Ravi Badhwar, 23, will be sentenced in December on two counts of criminal negligence causing death by street racing and failing to remain at the scene of a fatal accident. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Living history of 5-pin bowling

Alley re-opens in time to celebrate 100th year of Toronto-made game

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

It may not be an anniversary on the top of most people's minds, but it's definitely one that goes down in Toronto's history books: the 100th anniversary of five-pin bowling, an amateur sport invented right here in our fair city.

ALL PHOTOS BY HEATHER BUCHAN/FOR METRO TORONTO

Bowlers play on the original 1950's five-pin lanes which have been restored at Shamrock Bowl on Coxwell Avenue near Gerrard Street East. Inset: Walter Heeney, left, president of the Master Bowlers' Association and master bowler Fraser Hambly.

And to commemorate the occasion, Shamrock Bowl, a bowling alley with deep roots in the Coxwell and Gerrard community for half-a-century, is celebrating it's grand reopening after two-and-a-half years of renovations to restore it to it's 1950s glory.

The story of five-pin bowling goes as such:

It was in 1909 that a local businessman by the name of Thomas Ryan, who owned a bowling alley near Yonge and Richmond streets, developed five-pin bowling after receiving complaints from patrons that the balls for ten-pin bowling — an amateur sport that was gaining popularity with North America's elite class at the time — were too heavy and the game too slow.

So Ryan devised a modified game with smaller balls, only five pins and a different scoring system. A short while later, he added rubber rings to the pins because they were bouncing out the window onto the street below. And the rest, as they say, is history. The game took off and five-pin bowling leagues formed.

"It's a game of the masses," says Walter Heeney, president of the Master Bowlers' Association and a champion five-pin bowler with encyclopedic knowledge of the game, recognized as one of Canada's four heritage sports along with basketball, ringette and lacrosse. "Even at my age, you're able to still play somewhat competitively in a sport," explains Heeney of why he loves bowling.

Although Heeney admits that there are fewer people joining bowling leagues these days because it doesn't provide the "instant action" that he feels our society now craves, he's pleased to see the Shamrock Bowl preserved in the heart of Toronto, as is Fraser Hambly, a retired Toronto teacher, who was named the top male bowler of the 20th century in 2000 and recently came out to lend support to Shamrock's opening.

Although Shamrock Bowl will only be open as an event space for private parties and corporate events, it offers people a step back in time to a bygone era in this city's intriguing past.

To find out more about Shamrock Bowl, visit shamrockbowl.ca.

Condo on top of Sony Centre a go

BUILDING After years of revisions, the City of Toronto is close to a final deal for building a condominium tower atop the city-owned Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.

Fernbrook Homes and Castlepoint Realty Partners have tentatively set a date this month to break ground on a highrise once touted as the "L-tower" and designed by noted architect Daniel Libeskind.

Just last month, after repeated delays, councillors were told the lenders were trying to impose certain conditions to protect their interests.

The "L" lost its curved "toe" last year, and plans for a $75 million arts and heritage complex in the base were scrapped, replaced by a public plaza on the street level at the key intersection of Front and Yonge streets next to the theatre's entrance. Condo units will be added on lower levels once set aside for the arts centre.

"Obviously, it's been a long haul, but we're excited and we're happy to move forward and get this thing built," said Castlepoint's Alfredo Romano. "It hasn't been easy, but it's not a straightforward transaction, either."

Council signed off on the latest amendments to the umbrella agreement involving the developers, the city and the Sony Centre board last week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Closed

- The Sony Centre theatre, once the Hummingbird Centre and before that the O'Keefe Centre, has been dark since June 2008, awaiting proceeds from the condo project to pay for renovations.

Man tries to unite local Eritreans

INTEGRATE For the past five years Aaron Berhane has been rebuilding his life in Toronto after fleeing arrest in Eritrea.

Aaron Berhane

Today, he is the editor-in-chief and publisher of a monthly community newspaper for the 20,000-strong Eritrean community in Toronto. His goal: to help Eritreans, who are scattered across the GTA, integrate the community that is divided on whether you support the government back home.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

York garbage plans starting to stink

CONTRACT Last year York Region trumpeted an innovative 20-year contract with a private company in Vaughan to turn garbage into fuel instead of dumping it in landfill sites.

Today York claims an 85 per cent garbage diversion rate — among the best in Ontario.

But a Toronto Star undercover investigation reveals the Vaughan company is actually sending truckloads of the household garbage to a dump in Ontario or a U.S. incinerator.

It's the latest problem uncovered as the Star probes efforts by municipalities to reduce their garbage footprint. In York's case, taxpayers are paying a premium — estimated at under $3 million a year — to divert garbage to the Vaughan company.

The Star watched recently as City of Vaughan garbage trucks, coming in from morning residential pickup, tipped huge loads of garbage in black plastic bags at the back doors of the Dongara Pellet Plant, which says it turns waste into little black pellets that can be burned as a coal replacement.

Instead of being taken inside the plant for processing, the same garbage bags were immediately scooped up and loaded into a waiting transport trailer.

The Toronto Star followed the truck down Highway 427 and along the QEW to Thorold, near St. Catharines, where it drove inside Walker Environmental landfill and dumped the garbage in a pit. That was in mid-August.

The Star went back a second time, several weeks later, and saw a front-end loader take bags of garbage from inside the Dongara loading floor to the back of a transport trailer truck, waiting outside. This time, the truck drove straight to the United States border and headed into the Covanta Energy incinerator site in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Dongara's operations president Bruno Casciato confirmed to the Star that some garbage is being shipped to dumps and an incinerator, but he would not say how much.

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20-year contract

- According to York Region, it has a 20-year contract to annually send 100,000 tonnes of garbage to Dongara. The contract allows for payments to Dongara by York of roughly $8.4 million annually.

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Nuit Blanche catches a weather break

Toronto's annual all-night art party, Nuit Blanche, dodged a weather bullet on Saturday night. "There was a severe storm before 7 p.m. ... It was really something, but fortunately the skies cleared," Rita Davies, executive director of culture for the City of Toronto, told CBC.ca yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Camel shows star potential

Rocky takes break from Oshawa Zoo to learn new skills

There's a camel in Nancy Hutchinson's backyard. But he's not just any old dromedary.

Rocky is chatty and charming with a take-me-home look in his soft brown eyes that Hutchinson couldn't resist. So last month she brought him to her four-hectare alpaca farm for a "vacation," as his owners at Oshawa Zoo are telling his fans.

"I just fell in love with him. He's such a gentle giant," Hutchinson says of the 400-pound youngster who will grow to more than five times his size.

In truth, the fuzzy fellow is mixing business with pleasure during his month-long stay as she teaches him how to walk on a lead, "kush" (lie down), get in and out of a trailer, and other skills he'll need for a promising part-time career in shows, nativity scenes and maybe even the movies.

Hutchinson is a therapist who trains alpacas and other animals for work in schools, hospitals and retirement homes. She met Rocky last spring while donating a pair of alpacas to the zoo and began working with him there. Things went so well, the zoo agreed to send their star attraction home with her for more schooling.

CAROLA VYHNAK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rocky is a camel from Oshawa Zoo who's spending time with alpaca breeder Nancy Hutchinson so he can learn skills he'll need in a promising part-time career in show business.

The unusual "chatting" camel's warmth and effervescence set him apart from other camels that are just "nice," says Alan Connell, one of the zoo's owners.

"He has a great personality. He talks a lot. He's always with you, telling you his troubles."

During his stay at Spinning Wheel Alpacas, northeast of Oshawa, Hutchinson will introduce Rocky to new sights and sounds and get him used to being handled. The toughest lesson will be teaching him to lie down, which will involve repeating the word "kush" every time he does it on his own, she says.

Hutchinson worries she'll be caught between Rocky and a hard place when it's time to send him back to the zoo. Already he moans plaintively when she leaves his pen.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Homeless doll sparks debate

AMERICAN GIRL Gwen Thompson is a blond grade schooler, wearing a pretty sundress and summery flip-flops.

She's also homeless. And a doll. A $95 US doll whose fictional background as an American Girl character aimed at 8-year-olds has drawn some criticism over the propriety of marketing homelessness to children for profit.

"For $95 — more than your average homeless person would dream of spending on a

The Gwen Thompson doll

rather mediocre baby substitute — Gwen Thompson can be yours. A mixed message if ever there was one," wrote Andrea Peyser in a Sept. 24 column that launched the debate over the doll's merits.

But advocates for the homeless aren't so quick to condemn American Girl, saying raising awareness for an issue that affects people of all ages is positive.

"On that count, this kind of doll would do that," said Carol Howes, director of program services for Covenant House Toronto, Canada's largest youth shelter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Food bank unites communities

CRISIS It took a crisis at the local food bank to bring Sunni and Ismaili Muslims of Flemingdon Park together for a common cause, alongside their Christian neighbours.

Flemingdon Park Ministry, an Anglican outreach program, has run the food bank in Flemingdon Plaza for years, but Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft said the church had reached the end of its means last spring.

Houldcroft let it be known to the food bank's directors, and others in the community, that it needed more local support, including help from Flemingdon's sizable Muslim community itself, who accounted for the majority of the food bank's users.

Members of the Sunni and Ismaili came together for a food drive during the holy month of Ramadan

The campaign had a goal of 6,000 pounds of food; in the end , the food bank collected 10,000 pounds. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Mass production to spare rare chicken from extinction

Three organizations representing Quebec's egg and poultry producers recently signed an agreement to allow limited commercial production of the rare Chantecler chicken, to save the animal from extinction. There are thought to be only 2,000 Chantecler chickens alive. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Canadian space milestone

Canada is marking a space travel milestone today: It will be a quarter-century since the country's first astronaut blasted into space. Marc Garneau, left, hitched a ride aboard the now-infamous Space Shuttle Challenger on Oct. 5, 1984, beginning an eight-day mission. Garneau, now a Liberal MP from Montreal, says he's surprised with how far space travel has come.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Archbishop laments scandal

Faith left shaken after child-porn charges rock N.S. diocese

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada

Catholics across Nova Scotia were given a very personal, very anguished message when they went to church yesterday from the Archbishop of Halifax.

All eyes have been on the church since former bishop Raymond Lahey of the Diocese of Antigonish was arrested and charged in Ottawa last week with possessing child pornography.

Archbishop Anthony Mancini of Halifax, who has been appointed the apostolic administrator of the Antigonish diocese, discussed the scandal in a letter to be read in every Catholic church in the province yesterday. At Saint Mary's Basilica in Halifax he read the letter himself, which openly deals with him questioning his faith.

"Enough is enough. How much more can all of us take?" he read.

"Like you, my heart is broken, my mind is confused, my body hurts and I have moved in and out of a variety of feelings, especially shame and frustration, fear and disappointment, along with a sense of vulnerability and a tremendous poverty of spirit."

He questioned why God let it happen, what it could mean and whether this is "a time of purification, or is it nothing more than devastation?"

He ultimately urged Catholics to come together and gain strength from each other.

Near the end of the service, a priest read a series of prayers, including one for victims of sexual abuse. When he finished, Mancini added one final prayer for Lahey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Montreal **Canine communion**

RENE MARCHAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alexa Nadeau receives communion with her dog Christy at Christ's Anglican Church yesterday in Montreal. The parish is running a four-week pilot project that allows worshippers to bring their dogs to services.

News in brief

BYELECTIONS There may be no general election this fall but federal parties will still get to test drive their campaign machines in four byelections next month. Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced yesterday that byelections will be held Nov. 9 to fill four vacant ridings — two in Quebec, one in Nova Scotia and one in British Columbia.

OILSANDS After spending 24 hours chained high up on smokestacks and a construction crane, 16 Greenpeace protesters were arrested yesterday at an oilsands expansion project northeast of Edmonton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Waterloo man arrested in Florida on sex assault charge from 20 years ago

A former Waterloo, Ont., resident wanted on a sexual assault charge dating back more than 20 years has been arrested in Florida. U.S. authorities said Douglas Elmore Brenner, 65, is wanted by Waterloo Regional Police for an alleged assault on a juvenile under 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iggy tries to mend fences in Quebec

Liberal leader looks to replace Coderre

In a sign he's ready shut the door on the brouhaha surrounding his former Quebec lieutenant, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff said yesterday he will be naming Denis Coderre's replacement in the coming days.

The post was left vacant after the Montreal MP quit last week over a dispute about who would run in the Montreal riding of Outremont.

Ignatieff didn't give any hints on who would fill Coderre's shoes but he said the new regional boss would likely have fewer powers than before.

The Liberal leader also indicated he would name a new chief organizer to replace Coderre's ally Pierre Lajeunesse, who also resigned last week along with four other Quebec wing executives.

"It's in the party's constitution to have a chief representative," Ignatieff said.

"What Mr. Coderre does is his business. He took actions earlier in the week that have consequences. He's living the consequences." Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

"I will name the representative and I think we'll also choose another chief organizer at the same time."

He offered no olive branches to Coderre, who abandoned the role in a huff after Ignatieff bowed to pressure and agreed to let former cabinet minister Martin Cauchon vie for the seat he occupied for 11 years.

Coderre, who has a long-standing rivalry with Cauchon, had already selected star candidate Nathalie Le Prohon for the posh riding and was furious at being undermined.

He also accused Ignatieff's Toronto advisers of disrespecting the Quebec team.

"What Mr. Coderre does is his business," Ignatieff said yesterday.

"He took actions earlier in the week that have consequences. He's living the consequences."

The federal Liberals were presenting a united front during Sunday's biennial convention for the Quebec wing in the provincial capital.

In front of hundreds of supporters, Ignatieff reached out to his Quebec caucus in a speech aimed at inspiring party loyalty.

"Our unity and loyalty is for the institution and not for key figures," he told cheering delegates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. In memory of missing and murdered

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Photographs of missing or murdered women from B.C. are displayed during a Sisters in Spirit vigil to honour the lives of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Vancouver yesterday. Vigils were held in communities across Canada to highlight the issue of murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

B.C. deals with 'hillbilly heroine'

DRUGS Small communities in British Columbia largely untouched by the scourge of hard drugs are discovering a similar danger that some consider even tougher to tackle because it's handed out with a doctor's blessing.

So-called "hillbilly heroin" is a prescription pain killer that's been badly abused in parts of Atlantic Canada, Ontario and Quebec, partly because it's easier for addicts to get than the real stuff and has therefore become popular in rural areas.

Now, B.C. physicians and a new study from the University of British Columbia say the addictive drug, formally called oxycodone, has hit the westernmost province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SPACE One small step for man can lead to one giant plop to the ground for astronauts who return from the gravity-free dimensions of space to the pressure-packed confines of Earth. A team of Canadian scientists is collecting samples from astronauts in hopes of solving the so-called "fainting astronaut syndrome," an affliction that strikes space travellers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Crash kills couple in bedroom

Two people are dead after a vehicle slammed through the bedroom wall of their apartment south of Quebec City early yesterday morning. After crashing into one apartment unit, the vehicle came to rest in the living room of a second unit, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mayor takes new approach to 'Buy U.S.'

TRADE The mayor of a small northern Ontario city is fighting Buy American policy with a David-and-Goliath approach, but bypassing Goliath and appealing directly to his U.S. counterparts on a local level to drop the contentious provision.

North Bay, Ont., mayor Victor Fedeli has sent letters to the mayors of three U.S. cities where North Bay made large purchases recently, imploring them to think about the effect on their community if Canada succumbed to protectionism.

In a letter sent to the mayor of DeKalb, Ill., Fedeli notes the $1-million water reservoir North Bay bought from a company in DeKalb, a community of about 46,000. If Canada had a Buy Canadian policy the order would not have been received by that company, an important employer in their community, and it may have been forced to lay people off, Fedeli said.

"We buy reservoirs made in your city, but you can't buy engineering services or manufactured products from our city," Fedeli writes.

"I ask you mayor to mayor — does that sound right?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

North Bay Mayor Victor Fedeli poses in a U.S.-purchased fire truck in North Bay, Ont., yesterday. Talks about Buy American laws may involve high-level officials, but the effects would be most deeply felt on a local level, said Fedeli.

Jurors checked, says official

Privacy commissioner to take Crown to task on secret probes

Crown prosecutors and police in several Ontario communities conducted secret background checks on prospective jurors, Privacy Commissioner Ann Cavoukian will report today following an investigation by her office into the illegal practice.

The commissioner began the investigation after reports Crown attorneys in Barrie, Windsor and Thunder Bay convinced police to do background checks on jury candidates in violation of provincial law.

The background checks — which saw investigators reporting back on such things as whether or not the potential jurors like police — have resulted in two mistrials so far as defence lawyers claim abuse of process.

Background checks were conducted on potential jurors in at least 20 trials in Barrie, and sources say Cavoukian has discovered the controversial practice was not contained to those three communities.

However, the Ministry of the Attorney General said Friday that its survey found the background checks on jurors were limited.

"There were 20 cases identified in Barrie, in which there was a conviction following a jury trial," confirmed ministry spokesman Brendan Crawley. There was also a case in Windsor in which a new jury was selected and the trial is continuing, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty

- In June, Premier Dalton McGuinty insisted the government "has done all it can" to stop Crown prosecutors and police from secretly investigating prospective jurors.

News in brief

CRASH The pilot killed Saturday when his homemade plane spiraled down into a Prince Edward Island farmer's field has been identified as 70-year-old Thomas Capstick, a long-time aviator and former airport employee. Police confirmed that Capstick was at the controls of an open cockpit plane that crashed near the Slemon Park airfield, northwest of Summerside. THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS Premier Ed Stelmach will face some grumpy party veterans, including at least one former cabinet minister, when 1,500 Alberta Tory delegates vote next month to decide whether he should continue to lead the party. It's an unlikely scenario for a premier who took the reins in 2006 and whose party captured 72 of Alberta's 83 seats in last year's election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dazed And Confused

Most Drivers Lost When Looking For The Lowest Car Insurance Rates

Why Is It So Hard To Find The Best Rates?

The truth is, it isn't as difficult as it seems once you know where to look. We've all heard that it pays to shop around – and car insurance is no different. For most people, that means talking to friends, making phone calls, surfing the Internet, and speaking with several brokers and insurance companies to get competitive rates. But with over 30 insurance companies providing car insurance in Ontario, getting references and quotes from everyone takes too much time, right? Wrong. This is where an online service like InsuranceHotline.com, which provides real-time quotes from competing insurers, can help.

InsuranceHotline.com offers an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 of the top insurance companies in Canada to find you the lowest rate for your profile and then connects you with a licensed broker or agent who can provide the policy. It is fast, safe and FREE.

Does It Really Pay To Shop Around?

Most consumers fail to realize that the rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

The key to finding the best rate is to figure out which insurance company has the best rate for your particular situation. And with rates varying so wildly across companies, chances are you are not with the company that has the lowest rate for your profile right now.

Don't Be Fooled By Others Offering To "Compare Quotes".

Unlike most of its competitors, InsuranceHotline.com does not sell insurance, is not a licensed broker or agent, and is not owned in whole or in part by an insurance company, agent or brokerage. This allows InsuranceHotline.com to be completely unbiased when providing insurance quotes and keeps its focus solely on finding the lowest insurance rates for consumers.

By contrast, most websites offering to "compare insurance quotes" are owned by or affiliated with insurance brokers or agents and are therefore only capable of quoting rates from the limited number of insurance companies they represent, typically no more than 4 or 5.

Start Saving Your Money Now.

InsuranceHotline.com puts you in the driver seat by making insurance companies compete for your business. With quotes from over 30 of the top insurance companies in Canada, InsuranceHotline.com is the simplest and easiest way to make sure you aren't overpaying for your car insurance. And it is completely FREE to use.

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Rate Comparison

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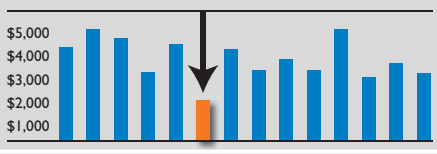

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Striking hydro workers respond to emergencies

A number of striking Manitoba Hydro workers were forced off the picket line Saturday to respond to two emergencies. Manitoba Hydro management and the union have a provision in place to provide emergency services during the strike. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stimulus spending sleuths stymied by lack of data

Canada's stimulus-spending detectives say the federal government is being so miserly with basic information, they're forced to take extraordinary measures to track just how billions of taxpayer dollars are being spent.

Elaine McCoy, a 63-year-old Alberta senator who used to consort with the likes of former premiers Don Getty and Ralph Klein, is a case in point.

She recently teamed up with a group of 20-something volunteer computer geeks to try to follow the money.

Together, they're combing the Internet and swapping information with everyone they can find, in the hope of putting together a detailed picture of what the federal government is doing with its billions in stimulus funds.

"We started reaching out for data and it wasn't there."
Elaine McCoy, PC Senator

Her dream was to give Canadians easy access to the details of the stimulus funds and solicit their feedback on how well the package was working.

But the dream has hit a serious obstacle: McCoy can't get hold of the facts.

"We started reaching out for data and it wasn't there," McCoy, a Progressive Conservative senator, said in an interview.

"The news releases? That's not data. That's spin."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians among candidates for Nobel Prize

MEDICINE Two Canadian scientists whose discovery of stem cells has paved the way for controversial research could be candidates for the 2009 Nobel Prize in medicine, the winners of which will be announced today.

Ernest McCulloch and James Till won the prestigious Lasker Award in 2005 and experts say they could also be among the front-runners for a Nobel.

But in an interview with The Canadian Press yesterday, Till said he and McCulloch do not expect to win because "it's been so long" since their discovery of adult stem cells in the early 1960s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper changes his mind about attending galas

A year after Prime Minister Stephen Harper dismissed galas as the playground of elites, he decided to ham it up a bit at a glittering high society event in Ottawa Saturday.

Harper took to the stage, sat down at a grand piano and belted out the Beatles' "With a Little Help from My Friends."

He was performing for one of the most elite of audiences: The black-tie gala at the National Arts Centre traditionally attracts the most powerful people in Ottawa society and movers and shakers in Canadian culture.

Harper, a Beatles fan, was accompanied by renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma.

The prime minister held his own musically, and the audience, succumbing to the playful spirit of the surprise guest appearance, rewarded him with a standing ovation.

Harper's wife, Laureen, is the honourary chairwoman of the NAC gala, which raises money for arts education — this year's tally coming to some $575,000.

And though the prime minister appeared to enjoy himself immensely, he chose not to linger in the limelight, and left the building before the curtain came down on the gala.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper performs The Beatles song With a Little Help From My Friends on the piano during a surprise appearance at the National Arts Centre Gala in Ottawa Saturday.

Harper's dismissive attitude toward culture and the arts was blamed, in large part, for his party's poor showing in Quebec in the 2008 election.

His stage act may have been timely, because yesterday Harper was expected to call four federal byelections for November, including two in Quebec, one in Nova Scotia and one in British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Government won't re-appoint chair of military watchdog

DEFENCE The federal government will not re-appoint the chairman of an embattled military watchdog agency, The Canadian Press has learned.

Peter Tinsley has been told his leadership with the military complaints commission will be allowed to expire and it will likely end before a probe of Afghan prison torture is completed.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay wrote to Tinsley, a respected former international war crimes prosecutor in Bosnia, that his position will not be renewed; he'll be replaced when his term comes to an end Dec. 11.

A spokeswoman for the commission confirmed the existence of the Sept. 9 letter, but declined to release it, citing the national security contents of its passages.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS A Liberal senator and a NDP MP are seeking all-party support for new legislation that could restart Canada's ambitious promise to deliver cheaply priced drugs to countries fighting AIDS, malaria and other epidemics. Liberal Senator Sharon Carstairs and NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis held a joint press conference in Winnipeg Friday, saying this is a "humanitarian issue" that cuts across party lines.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Somalian president pleads for end to terrorist recruitment from U.S.
The president of Somalia is condemning the recruiting of young men in Minnesota for terrorist activity in his war-ravaged homeland and says he'll work with the U.S. to bring those still alive back home. Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed spoke yesterday while visiting Minneapolis, home to the largest Somali population in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Chavez to ban violent video games?

In a bid to curb Venezuela's soaring violent crime rate, National Assembly allies of President Hugo Chavez, left, are on track to prohibit violent video games and toys in the country. The proposed legislation, which received initial approval, is expected to get a final vote in the coming weeks. Last year, the Venezuelan Justice Ministry said homicides averaged 152 a week, or roughly 7,900 for the year. That's more than five times the murder rate in Texas, which has roughly the same population as Venezuela. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly day for U.S. in Afghanistan

GUNBATTLE Hundreds of insurgents armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades stormed a pair of remote outposts near the Pakistan border, killing eight U.S. soldiers and capturing more than 20 Afghan security troops in the deadliest assault against U.S. forces in more than a year, military officials said Sunday. The fierce gunbattle, which erupted at dawn Saturday in the Kamdesh district of mountainous Nuristan province and raged throughout the day, is likely to fuel the debate in Washington over the direction of the troubled eight-year war. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, plans to shift U.S. troops away from remote outposts that are difficult to defend and move them into more heavily populated areas as part of his new strategy to focus on protecting Afghan civilians.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Canadian NATO spokesman Brig. Gen. Eric Tremblay said the assailants included a mix of "tribal militias," Taliban and fighters loyal to Sirajudin Haqqani, an al-Qaida-linked militant based in sanctuaries in the tribal areas of Pakistan near the Afghan border.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Socialists return to power in Greece

Greece's Socialists trounced the governing conservatives in a landslide election yesterday, with voters angered by scandals and a faltering economy ousting Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis halfway through his second term.

Humbled by his New Democracy party's worst electoral performance ever, Karamanlis, 53, resigned as its leader and said a new chief is needed for the party founded by his late uncle Constantine Karamanlis 35 years ago.

George Papandreou, 57, now follows in the footsteps of his father, Andreas Papandreou — who founded his Panhellenic Socialist Movement party, or PASOK — and grandfather and namesake George Papandreou, both of whom served several terms as prime ministers.

"We bear a great responsibility to change the course of the country," Papandreou, a former foreign minister, told jubilant supporters outside his party headquarters in Athens.

"I know the potential of the country very well, a potential being drowned by corruption, favouritism, lawlessness and waste," Papandreou said.

Papandreou's victory, along with a recent election win by socialists in Portugal, bucks a European trend that has seen a conservative surge in the continent's powerhouse economies, including most recently in Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel won re-election last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANGELOS TZORTZINIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greek Socialist Party Leader George Papandreou, bottom right, is greeted by supporters in Athens yesterday.

m.metronews.ca

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Berlusconi promises to house mudslide victims

SICILY Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi promised yesterday to build new houses for the victims of massive mudslides in Sicily that killed at least 22 people and left more than 500 homeless.

Berlusconi visited the devastated area around the eastern coastal city of Messina and met with survivors who were being housed in area hotels.

He promised them the government would build new houses — complete with sheets, flowers and a week's worth of groceries — just as it did for the survivors of an April 6 earthquake in central Italy.

Rivers of mud tore down the mountainside and flooded parts of Messina and surrounding towns on Thursday night and Friday morning, killing 22 people and leaving another 40 still unaccounted for.

Berlusconi said the devastation was caused by an "exceptional" deluge that dumped more than 25 centimetres of rain in a few hours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deforestation

- Officials have acknowledged that deforestation and unregulated development — a widespread practice in Sicily and other parts of southern Italy — had weakened the soil and contributed to the disaster. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi didn't refer explicitly to the problem of illegal construction, which is prevalent with the Sicilian Mafia.

News in brief

WILDFIRES A wind-fanned wildfire that charred some 14 square kilometres of California's San Gabriel Mountains continued to rage yesterday as firefighters worked to prevent flames from advancing toward a mountain resort community. In Arizona, some residents of the city of Williams remained away from their homes for another day as a prescribed burn that grew out of control threatened the town known as the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon."

RUSSIA Hundreds of communists and opposition activists marched through Moscow to commemorate those killed when then-president Boris Yeltsin sent troops to crush a rebellious parliament 16 years ago. The demonstrators carried portraits of the more than 100 people killed in the 1993 street clashes. Yesterday's march ended behind the building known as the White House, which was blasted with tank fire as troops moved in to arrest leaders of the resistance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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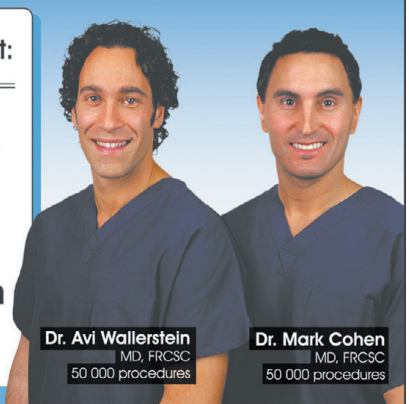

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Former Japanese cabinet minister found dead

A former Japanese finance minister who stepped down after appearing to be drunk at an overseas news conference was found dead in his home yesterday, police said, ruling out foul play. Shoichi Nakagawa was lying face down in bed when his wife found him in their Tokyo home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Devastation in Indonesia

No clear word on death toll from earthquake, mudslides

Search teams lost hope of finding any more survivors under the rubble left by a massive earthquake last week, as torrential rains held up aid delivery in the remote hills of western Indonesia where several villages were wiped out.

Rescue teams instead focused yesterday on retrieving the rotting bodies from the rubble of the magnitude 7.6 earthquake in Sumatra island, setting up tents for the tens of thousands of homeless and providing them food and drinking water.

Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said there was little hope of finding anyone alive.

"We can be sure that they are dead. So now we are waiting for burials," he told reporters.

There is no clear word on the death toll. The United Nations put the figure at 1,100. The government earlier said 715 were dead and 3,000 were missing. But it revised the figure yesterday to 603 confirmed killed and 960 missing, presumably dead.

AHMAD IBRAHIM/AFP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swiss search and rescue personnel are seen amidst ruins from fallen buildings yesterday in Padang, on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

"With each passing day, the magnitude of the devastation grows," said Mark Fritzler, Save the Children aid group's Indonesia head.

The missing include 644 people who were buried alive in four villages in the hills of Padang Pariaman district that were swept away by landslides caused by the quake. Among the victims were 200 to 300 guests at a wedding party in Jumanak village.

The restaurant where the party was being held was damaged but largely intact. A slice of the green wedding cake lay untouched on a plate, covered with flies. The guests were apparently killed when they ran outside as the ground began to tremble but were swept away by the landslide 40 metres away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines hit by deadly storm again

TYPHOON Typhoon Parma caused widespread flooding and landslides that buried at least two families in the Philippines, then hung threateningly off the coast yesterday drenching the country's north as well as Taiwan.

At least 16 people died when Parma hit the main island of Luzon on Saturday, though the capital, Manila — still awash in floodwaters from a storm barely a week earlier — was spared a new disaster.

In Benguet province, a family of five, including a one-year-old boy, died when their home was buried in a landslide, local police Senior Superintendent Loreto Espineli told The Associated Press. Seven people, including another family of five, were buried in a nearby village, he said. Four also died in other provinces, most of them drowning after being swept away by floodwaters, officials said.

Last night, the storm was close enough to Taiwan to cause heavy rain on the island, where troops were evacuating some villages and loading sandbags in preparation for possible flooding.

On Sept. 26, Tropical Storm Ketsana killed at least 288 people and damaged the homes of three million in the Philippines before striking other Southeast Asian nations, killing 162 in Vietnam, 18 in Cambodia and at least 16 in Laos. Parma came during a week of destruction in the Asia-Pacific region that included Ketsana, an earthquake in Indonesia and a tsunami in the Samoan islands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Higher ground

- Tens of thousands of Filipinos fled to higher ground before Parma hit, packing winds of 175 kilometres per hour and driving rain. Towns in a dozen provinces were battered, landslides cut bridges and downpours swelled rivers, officials said.

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Man held over Andrews videos

CHICAGO A judge was expected to decide today whether a man accused of stalking TV sports reporter Erin Andrews and secretly video taping her nude should be returned to Los Angeles as a federal prisoner or free on bail to face charges. Michael David Barrett, 47, of Illinois, was held in jail over the weekend after his arrest Friday in Chicago. Investigators believe he recorded Andrews by aiming a cellphone camera through an altered peephole in the door of her hotel room. Several TV networks and newspapers aired clips or screen grabs from the videos of Andrews in July. Andrews' attorney, Marshall Grossman, said the videos appeared to have been taped by a serial stalker who followed her from city to city.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADL concerned over theories

HONDURAS A Jewish civil rights organization is expressing alarm over conspiracy theories claiming Jews and Israel aided the ouster of the Honduran president. The Anti-Defamation League cited statements made by ousted President Manuel Zelaya as well as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, among others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al-Qaida praises jailed militant

Al-Qaida's deputy leader paid tribute yesterday to a militant held in U.S. secret prisons who once gave false information about the terror group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. sees 'progress' in Iran nuclear talks

The White House said yesterday it sees signs of progress in confronting Iran's nuclear program while members of Congress endorsed authorizing tougher U.S. economic penalties against the Tehran government.

International inspectors are to visit Iran's newly disclosed uranium enrichment site on Oct. 25. That announcement yesterday capped a furious week of diplomacy, including Thursday's session in Geneva where Iran and six world powers resumed nuclear talks.

"The fact that Iran came to the table and seemingly showed some degree of cooperation, I think, is a good thing," said retired Gen. James Jones, President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

"We, the world community, want to be satisfied within a short period of time."

National Security Adviser Gen. James Jones

"We, the world community, want to be satisfied within a short period of time," Jones added. "So it's not going to be extended discussions that we're going to have before we draw our conclusions to what their real intent is. But for now, I think things are moving in the right direction."

Suspicions about Iran's nuclear intentions have risen steadily along with fears – and some evidence – that Tehran wants to build an atomic bomb using what it calls a civilian nuclear energy program as cover. Iran is under three sets of UN penalties for refusing to stop enriching uranium.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MORMONS A church leader yesterday counselled Mormons to look for opportunities to exemplify the Christian values of love and forgiveness in their daily lives. "Try to show kindness in all that you do. Be gentle and loving in deed and thought," said President Henry B. Eyring, a counsellor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "The joys come from putting the welfare of others above our own. " Mormons gather in April and October to hear words of inspiration and direction from top church leaders. The two-day event draws more than 100,000 members to the church's downtown Salt Lake City headquarters.

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Device keeps tabs on kids

Trackers may bring parents peace of mind — within limits

With a computer or cellphone and an electronic tracking device, you can locate a missing pet, follow the path of a stolen car, or rescue a hiker lost in the woods.

So what about a child snatched by a stranger?

About 800,000 children are reported missing in the U.S. each year. The vast majority are runaways, followed by parental abductions, said Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Of those who are kidnapped by strangers, about 99 per cent come home fairly quickly, often victims of sexual abuse.

There are technological tools that give parents some peace of mind, from clip-on alarms to GPS locators that can be dropped in a backpack or stuffed in a teddy bear, but experts caution that the gadgets are not without their limitations.

"Tracking devices can be useful to parents," said Allen. "Our concern is that they will be viewed as more than they are."

Companies that sell locators say they do not substitute for keeping an eye on your children and they do not prevent kidnappings or guarantee recovery after an abduction.

A concern with some locators that are attached to a child or sewn into his clothing is danger to the child should an abductor try to pull it off.

Though the trackers are not illegal, some parents are concerned about what effects these surveillance devices could have on a child's sense of independence or level of paranoia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alarming statistics

- **60,582**: Children reported missing in Canada
- **21,293**: Missing in Ontario
- **56**: Stranger abductions
- **285**: Parental abduction
- **46,189**: Runaways
- **11,216**: Unknown reasons

SOURCE: RCMP FIGURES, 2007

Dad on trial for daughter's death

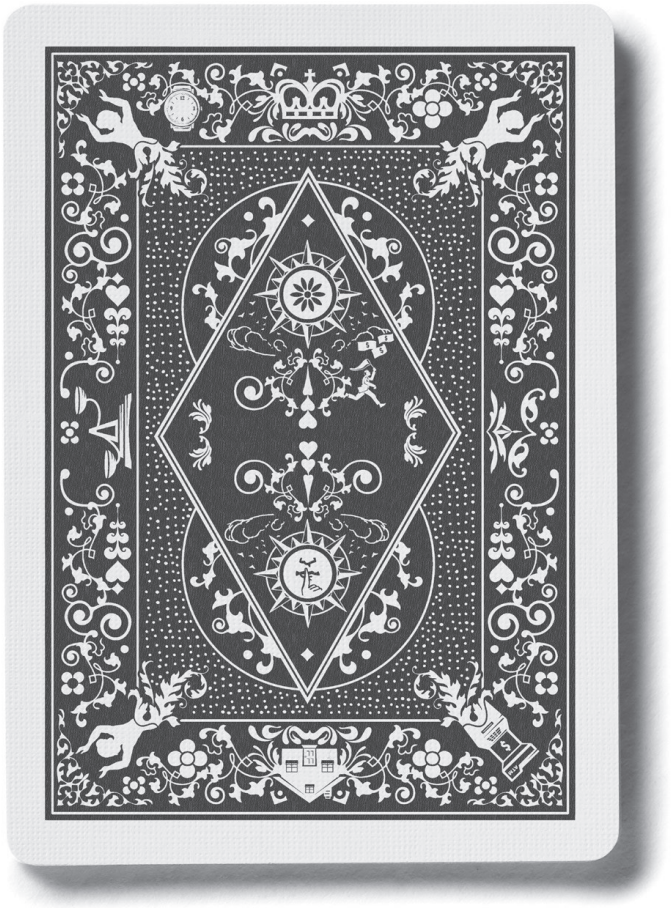
TRIAL Eleven-year-old Sage Aragon and her brother set out in the snow, hiking along a frigid, desolate stretch of Idaho highway on their way to their mother's house. Sage would never make it, and Bear would eventually turn up alone at a rest area, suffering from hypothermia.

A jury is expected to convene this week to consider whether their father, Robert Aragon, should be held responsible for her death. Aragon faces up to a decade in prison for involuntary manslaughter, and up to another 10 years for felony injury to a child.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The early warning signs of a gambling problem aren't always easy to see.

(Can you find 6 of them hidden in this card?)



1) Watch with no hands: Losing all track of time when you gamble? 2) House: Gambling with money needed for essentials? 3) Bank Machine: Often spending more money than you intended? 4) Unbalanced scale: Having few interests outside of gambling? 5) Fingers to lips: Hiding your gambling from family or friends? 6) Visit checkyourblindspot.ca to reveal Sign Six.

www.checkyourblindspot.ca

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Comment

Putting thanks into Thanksgiving

HineSight
Anne Hines
metronews.ca/hinesight

Thankfulness has more to do with who you are than where you are. For instance, today is Monday. For all of us. It's October, meaning that in most parts of this country the weather can be loosely described as "complete crapolla." In spite of this, some of us are thinking, "A new week! Who knows what magical things may happen? And look, a free newspaper. Could life be any better?" Whereas others are thinking, "Yes, it damn well could."

It is simply the case that some people find it harder to be thankful than others. Normally, we call these people "pessimists" or "Toronto Maple Leaf fans."

The first step to being thankful is to consider which type of person you are. Ask yourself this question:

"If my life were a movie, what kind of movie would it be?"

Those who see their lives as a Sandra Bullock romantic comedy believe that, though there will be a kooky mix-up and all will seem lost two thirds of the way through, ultimately life will end happily and your hair will look great. These people find it easy to be thankful.

If you picture your life as a Bruce Willis action movie, then you may see the world as a place where good always triumphs over evil and poor acting and questionable plot-lines will always be graciously overlooked by others so long as you make enough things blow up. You also are a thankful person. A little scary and delusional perhaps, but thankful.

If you see your life as one of those arty foreign films in which everyone sits around intoning, "We must go to Moscow," and the entire thing is shot from the perspective of a three-week old loaf of pumpernickel bread, it may be harder for you to see life as something to be thankful for. In fact, you should forget about thankful and just seek help. Now.

So, can those of us who are gratitude-ily challenged still enjoy Turkey Day? Absolutely. Simply change your outlook by repeating one of these mantras:

"Sure things are bad, but I'm way better off than that turkey."

"My relatives are charming and cranberry jelly mold is my favourite dish."

"I don't have to do this again until Christmas.

Happy Thanksgiving!

• A big shout-out to Metro readers Beth, Mark, Stacey and Nancy who came to hear me read from my new book, Parting Gifts. I'm thankful for you!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Views

What role should TTC police officers play?

InTransit
Ed Drass
metronews.ca/intransit

Do transit systems need their own security personnel? That's the question facing the Toronto Police Services Board and the Toronto Transit Commission.

After a grant from the federal government, Toronto police chief Bill Blair created a new Transit Patrol Unit earlier this year. Forty-one uniformed officers are already assigned to the transit system.

There are a lot of "logistical" issues to work out, says TTC spokesperson Brad Ross.

There wasn't a lot of police presence on the system when the TTC created its own security force in the 1990s. Former transit chair Howard Moscoe says, "The reason we initially went with our own special constables is they were 100 per cent dedicated to TTC issues."

David Gunn, once chief general manager of the TTC, notes police often do not have time to enforce the "little things that drive riders nuts," like graffiti, smoking on transit property and fare evasion.

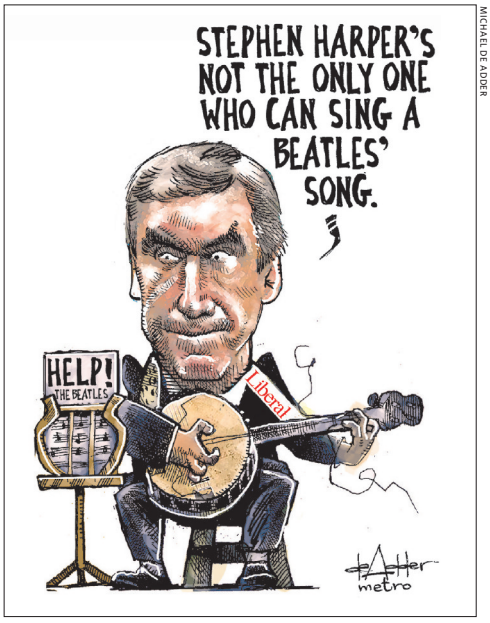
Earlier this year the police services board voted to move ahead on a "mutually agreeable transfer of responsibility for public transit safety and security."

Police spokesperson Meaghan Gray says several teams from the two bodies are addressing the switch, which is scheduled for January 2010. The compensation, benefits and training for current TTC Special Constables who would become police officers is still being worked out, she says.

It's obvious the transition is tricky. For example, a TTC memorandum states the commission wishes to keep responsibility and staff for "Investigative Services and System Security." Whether that includes organized fare fraud as well as other criminal activity remains to be sorted out.

Then there is fare enforcement. Similar to the situation on GO Transit trains or York Region's Viva buses, it's the job of transit personnel to enforce "proof of payment." This system is currently in force on the Queen Streetcar route and is to be widened — but should police officers be expected to check fares?

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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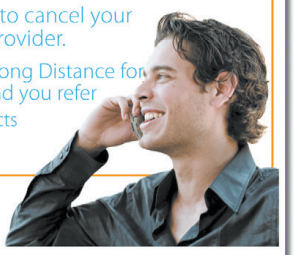

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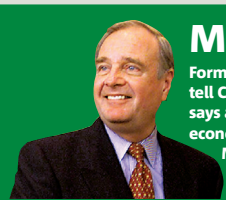
Mexican brewer mulls beer merger

Mexican brewer and beverage maker Femsa SAB is exploring merger possibilities involving its beer business. The Wall Street Journal reported that Femsa has held discussions with SABMiller PLC and Heineken NV. A deal could be valued at $9 billion US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business



Martin weighs in on deficit

Former prime minister Paul Martin says the Harper government needs to tell Canadians exactly what it's going to do to eliminate the deficit. He says a structural deficit has been created in response to the global economic downturn, and the government has to accept this reality. Martin is known for his successful elimination of the federal deficit when he was finance minister in the 1990s. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mayors shelve plan to boycott U.S. suppliers

SUPPLIERS Canada's mayors are withdrawing their threat to boycott suppliers from the United States in retaliation of the Buy American laws.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities says it won't enact a resolution passed in June because municipal leaders see progress in talks between the two countries.

In a statement Saturday, federation president Basil Stewart said the mayors want to give negotiators in the talks the time and space to reach a successful conclusion.

"We are encouraged by the talks now underway between Canadian and U.S. officials and want to give them the time and space to reach a successful outcome," he said.

In June, the mayors passed a resolution that gave the U.S. 120 days to back down from the Buy American provisions, warning that Canadian municipalities would in return boycott U.S. suppliers

The action was to take effect yesterday.

Federation vice-president Berry Vrbanovic said he does not believe the suspension of the deadline will remove the pressure on the U.S., saying the mayors are leaving the door open to reconsider the deadline if a deal is not reached.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba Hydro workers on strike over pay, contract

RALLY Striking Manitoba Hydro workers gathered outside the company's headquarters in Winnipeg to rally support for the first strike in the utility's 50-year history.

Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2034 — which represents about 3,000 linesmen, technicians and truck drivers — walked off the job Friday to back their demands for higher wages and a shorter contract.

Glenn Schneider, a hydro spokesman, says some workers watched from the office building as a crowd of people gathered below for the rally. The union put out a call on its website for members of two other unions at the utility to join them at the rally.

Schneider says so far, there hasn't been any effect on day-to-day operations of the power utility.

He says, under an emergency agreement with union officials, workers got the power back on after an outage at a hospital in Churchill, Man., and responded to a fire call at the Grand Rapids First Nation, about 400 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

THEME PARKS Private equity firm Blackstone Group is close to sealing a deal to buy Anheuser-Busch InBev's theme parks unit, including such notable parks as SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, according to a media report. Citing unnamed sources, the Wall Street Journal reported that the New York-based firm could buy the theme parks operated under the Busch Entertainment unit next week in a transaction worth between $2.5 billion and $3 billion.

FUNDS Canadians moved between $475.9 million and $975.9 million out of mutual funds in September. The Investment Funds Institute of Canada estimated net assets of the industry for September will be $578.8 billion to $583.8 billion. "Since April, we have seen strong long-term fund sales coupled with weak money market fund sales in what we see as investors cautiously moving off the sidelines," IFIC's Pat Dunwoody said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STEPHEN JAFFE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo released by the IMF, G-7 Finance Ministers and their Bank Governors pose for a group photograph at the Istanbul Congress Center in Istanbul, Turkey Saturday.

G7 warns of fragile recovery

Finance ministers from the Group of Seven rich countries warned the recovery remains "fragile" and tried to talk up the U.S. dollar amid fears it could fall farther and disrupt the global economy.

The officials said in their closing statement after meeting Saturday in Istanbul that decisive moves by governments had improved conditions for the world economy and financial markets.

But they warned against "complacency" since growth prospects remained "fragile" and unemployment continues to rise. Figures on Friday showed the U.S. economy shedding more jobs than expected in September, with unemployment at a 26-year high of 9.8 per cent.

They agreed it was too soon to withdraw the stimulus measures such as government deficit spending and rock-bottom interest rates that have helped restart growth.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the United States will unwind the "extraordinary" policy measures it has taken only when conditions stabilize and growth strengthens.

"Planning for an eventual exit is the responsible and necessary thing to do, but we are not yet in the position where it would be prudent to withdraw fiscal and monetary policy support," Geithner said.

"Exit will not be like flipping a switch," he added.

The Federal Reserve has slashed its key interest rate to near zero per cent and pumped over a trillion dollars into the markets to sustain liquidity and free up lending, while the Obama administration enacted a near $800 billion package of spending increases and tax cuts to prop up the economy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stocks face difficulties maintaining gains as economic data softens

MARKETS Stock markets could be in for some tough slogging to build on the sharp gains racked up practically without interruption since early March.

The main headwinds in the short term are softer economic data, higher expectations for third-quarter earnings and the possibility that the market is overbought and needs to back off somewhat.

"I'm very cautious," said John Johnston, chief strategist at The Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities. "We've had this huge price gain, and the market is probably due at some point for a correction."

"The surprises on the data are turning more negative," said Johnston. "The market and analysts maybe got a bit ahead of themselves and now they're doing a bit of fine tuning, adjusting estimates a bit."

2.26 The Toronto stock exchange finished lower for a second week in a row last week, losing 2.26 per cent as investors were dismayed to see that the U.S. economy shed 263,000 jobs, many more than the 180,000 job losses that economists had expected.

Other analysts point out that while the numbers are softening somewhat, they doesn't herald a return to even more dismal economic conditions.

"We're not going back into recession — I think that's the important distinction," said Patricia Croft, chief economist at RBC Global Management.

"I think that we still are in a recovery but it's very fragile and the consumer still is going to be pressured by the labour market, which is weak in the United States," she said. "But to be fair, it's not all that strong globally as well, so I think it is a story of recovery, but not a straight line and hence stocks may have a bit of a pullback here."

Such a pullback would come amid strong gains on stock markets that are up about 50 per cent from the lows of early March.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bird gets contract to build hangar

PROJECT Toronto-based contractor Bird Construction Ltd. has been awarded an $84.7-million fixed price contract to build a new maintenance hangar at CFB Trenton, Ont., the company's owners announced Friday.

Under terms of the contract with the Crown corporation Defence Construction Canada, work on the project will commence immediately and is expected to be completed within two years, Bird Construction Income Fund said in a statement.

No other details on the project were immediately available. Bird Construction is one of Canada's leading general contractors with operations in Ontario and Western Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers at Bridgestone-Firestone ratify new contract
The United Steelworkers union says its members at tiremaker Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire LLC have ratified new four-year contracts covering 4,500 workers at six tire and rubber product plants. The contract was approved by a two-to-one ratio. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Review calls for reforms at FINRA

Brokerage industry's self-policing regulator failed to uncover huge Ponzi schemes

The brokerage industry's self-policing body must make reforms to protect investors after its inspections failed to uncover the massive Ponzi scheme run by Bernard Madoff and the alleged fraud by R. Allen Stanford, according to a special review.

The special committee's review recommends that the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's brokerage examination program be revamped to ensure that detecting and preventing fraud are central elements.

FINRA lacks a central database for its examiners with investors' complaints about firms, so staff members missed numerous "red flags" on Stanford's firm, according to the review released Friday.

The Securities and Exchange Commission's stunning failure to detect Madoff's fraud for nearly two decades, despite numerous warning signs raised by outsiders, has brought the federal agency widespread criticism and pressure to revamp itself. The SEC inspector general found that the agency bungled five investigations of Madoff's business between June 1992 and last December, when the prominent financier confessed.

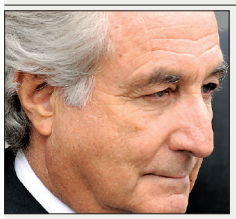
Earlier this week, the inspector general issued recommendations for the SEC to avoid another breakdown, including a new system for handling the thousands of tips and complaints the agency receives.

FINRA's internal review, begun in April, was conducted by outside attorneys led by Charles Bowsher, a former U.S. comptroller general.

The organization is developing a reform plan based on the recommendations to be presented to its board in December, FINRA Chairman and CEO Richard Ketchum said in a letter Thursday to the SEC, which oversees FINRA.

FINRA already has taken steps to strengthen its regulatory program, including improving its routine exam programs, Ketchum said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madoff trustee sues Madoff's family to recover almost $200 million


Bernard Madoff

- Bernard Madoff's brother, sons and a niece used the family finance business like a "piggy bank," a court-appointed trustee charged Friday as he demanded in a lawsuit that they return almost $200 million that fuelled their lavish lifestyle at the expense of investors.
- The trustee, Irving Picard, sought $198.7 million from Madoff's brother, Peter, who had worked at Madoff's Manhattan investment company since 1965, and sons, Mark and Andrew.
- Also sued was Shana D. Madoff, Bernard Madoff's niece. Bernard Madoff, 71, a former Nasdaq chairman, is serving a 150-year sentence for the fraud in connection with a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme.
- No other family members have been criminally charged.
- The lawsuit said the defendants at least should have seen signs of irregularity and fraud at the company "but either failed to make sufficient inquiry or knew of the fraud, ignored it, and profited from it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greyhound officials meeting on future of bus routes in North

TRANSPORTATION Talks are set to go Wednesday to help save Greyhound services in northwestern Ontario.

The company and Ontario Transportation Minister Jim Bradley will meet for an undetermined length of time to work out a solution.

Greyhound vice-president Stuart Kendrick says he would like to see a leadership role from provincial and federal ministers for a short-term, $15-million break-even subsidy, that would give both sides 12 months to look at a long-term plan.

Greyhound has set a Dec. 2 deadline of pulling the plug on northwestern Ontario services unless a deal can be reached.

The company wants an overhaul of government regulations that force it to operate money-losing routes.

Greyhound is the only transit choice for many Canadians living in remote areas of Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regulators close Michigan, Colorado, Minnesota banks marking 98 failures

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Regulators have shut Warren Bank in Warren, Mich., and two small banks in Colorado and Minnesota, boosting the number of failed U.S. banks this year to 98 as loan defaults rise in the worst financial climate in decades.

Regulators have shut Warren Bank in Warren, Mich., and two small banks in Colorado and Minnesota, boosting the number of failed U.S. banks this year to 98 as loan defaults rise in the worst financial climate in decades.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took over Warren Bank, with about $538 million in assets and $501 million in deposits as of July 31. The Huntington National Bank, based in Columbus, Ohio, agreed to assume the deposits and about $83 million of the assets of the failed bank. The FDIC will retain the remaining assets for later disposition.

Warren Bank's six branches will reopen Saturday as offices of Huntington National Bank.

The failure of Warren Bank is expected to cost the deposit insurance fund an estimated $275 million.

Regulators also shut the much smaller Jennings State Bank, in Spring Grove, Minn. Central Bank of Stillwater, Minn., agreed to assume the bank's $52.4 million in deposits and essentially all the bank's assets, which totalled $56.3 million on July 31.

In addition, the FDIC and Central Bank agreed to share losses on about $37.7 million of Jennings State Bank's assets.

The FDIC estimates the closing of Jennings State Bank will cost the deposit insurance fund about $11.7 million.

Regulators shut a third bank, the Southern Colorado National Bank in Pueblo, Colo. Legacy Bank of Wiley, Colo., agreed to assume the deposits and essentially all the assets of Southern Colorado National Bank. As of Sept. 4, deposits stood at $31.9 million and assets totalled $39.5 million.

The FDIC and Legacy Bank agreed to share losses on about $25.5 million of Southern Colorado National Bank's assets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

COURT A federal appeals court in New York has ruled a lawsuit alleging a Canadian energy company aided genocide in its pursuit of oil in Sudan was properly thrown out. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan agreed Friday with a 2006 judge's ruling that found there was no credible evidence to support the claims against Calgary-based Talisman Energy Inc. Both the Canadian and U.S. governments had opposed the lawsuit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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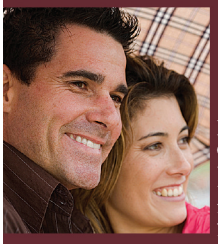

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#134 09/09

Keep a lid on your heat

If you have a wood-burning fireplace or stove, make sure the damper fits tightly and keep it closed when there's nothing burning. Otherwise, huge amounts of heat will pour up the chimney. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green

Chuck those baby wipes

Most baby wipes contain propylene glycol, a derivative of natural gas and hormone-disrupting parabens, according to Gillian Deacon's Green For Life. Instead, try wiping your baby with small washcloths and warm water.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bundle up: It's time to save on heat

EarthTones

Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

metronews.ca/earthtones

The leaves are turning, the Leafs are losing, turkeys are on sale at the grocery and there is a nip in the air. These are all sure signs that fall is here. This means that it is, or will be soon, time to turn on the heat. This seems like a good time to examine what we can do to reduce the amount of heat-related energy we use this winter.

The first thing is to make sure your furnace is in good working order. Having a dirty filter slows the passage of air through the furnace so a furnace with a clean filter operates more efficiently than one with a dirty filter. Also, like a car, keeping all the moving parts in a furnace clean, lubed and "tuned up" also adds to the efficiency and subtracts from your energy bill.

Set your thermostat as low as possible

For us a key tool for energy conservation is a programmable thermostat. These ingenious little devices mean that you no longer have to remember to turn the heat down before you go to bed or go out for the day. Plus, and this is huge, it means that you can wake up to or come home to a warm house. If you have a regular routine (get up, go to work etc) simply program the thermostat to have your house warm for you when you get up, cool it down again when you go to work and then have it warm again when you come home. Many models can be set with a different program for week days from weekends since requirements may be different for those days. Some can even be set for different programs for each day of the week, if your life and schedule are that complicated. All thermostats also have manual overrides for when you step outside your routine. When used properly programmable thermostats can significantly reduce energy use and heating bills. Plus they are not that hard to install or program.

Thermostats should also be set as low as possible (within the limits of comfort). Not higher than 21 degrees Celsius is suggested for the daytime (when you are home) and 2-3 degrees lower at night. Obviously the health and age of the occupants of a home will play into that decision, but we should try to go as low as we can.

Another energy saving device is the ceiling fan. As we know, hot air rises therefore the heat we pump into our rooms can end up near the ceiling while we shiver in the cooler air below. A ceiling fan can move this hot air around and redistribute it into the room.

Lower tech energy saving tips include blocking drafts. If you have older windows and don't see yourself springing for new well sealed ones this year consider sealing them with plastic. You can buy these window sealing kits in hardware stores. It doesn't look great at first but in a couple of days you won't even notice it and you will be warmer. Blinds and thick curtains are also good for sealing in heat, especially at night. Don't heat unused space: close doors to and vents in rooms that are not used or curtain off unused areas.

Saving energy used for heating lets us actively participate in conservation and also save money. So dig out the sweaters and bundle up, and have a warm, safe, and less costly winter.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University; earthtones.metro@gmail.com.

Carbon footprint of Olympic torch relay

FLAME The fuel feeding the 2010 Vancouver Olympics flame won't be the only thing burning when the torch relay begins at the end of October, with its 45,000-kilometre journey by air, land and water into every corner of Canada generating its own share of carbon emissions.

Vancouver Olympic officials say they are updating their estimates of the torch relay's carbon footprint, but pointed to a report released in January 2008 by the David Suzuki Foundation. The report, using figures from 2007, put the figure at about 1,500 tonnes.

300,000 The 2010 Olympics are estimated to produce 300,000 tonnes of carbon emissions, from the direct staging of the Games in Vancouver and Whistler to indirect sources such as athlete and spectator travel.

Vehicle travel represented about half of that estimate. The report estimated that the flame itself — which will be fuelled by a blend of propane, iso-butane and hydrocarbons — will be responsible for about five tonnes of carbon emissions.

To put those numbers in perspective, the David Suzuki Foundation says driving a mid-size car for a year produces about five tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The relay will make up just a small fraction of the total emissions associated with the Games — representing about half a per cent, said Deborah Carlson, one of the authors of the David Suzuki Foundation report. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Route of the flame

- The torch will be lit in Olympia, Greece, on Oct. 22, and arrive in Victoria on Oct. 30 to begin the Canadian leg of the relay. For the next 106 days, it will travel by vehicle, plane, boat and train to visit every province and territory on a route that includes 1,000 communities and extends into the Far North.
- The Games are the first with an official carbon offset supplier, which VANOC will use to offset an estimated 110,000 tonnes of what it considers direct carbon emissions, including the torch relay. Sponsors, competing nations and people coming to watch the Games will be encouraged to buy offsets to cover the rest.

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Biodiesel plants
There are biodiesel plants outside Hamilton and Montreal, but most biodiesel in Western Canada comes up from the United States — mostly because of a closer proximity to western U.S. states that produce biodiesel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Biodiesel beginning to gain acceptance

Clean burning fuel made from recycled cooking grease and distressed Canola plants, also known as biodiesel, is making its way into more vehicles.

Dozens of Canadian cities are now blending it with regular diesel in their government fleet trucks and buses as a way to cut emissions. Biodiesel is non-toxic, biodegradable, and produces about 75 per cent less carbon emissions than regular diesel.

Most provinces still only have a few places that sell it at the pump, but the trend is growing. The BC government started to gradually implement legislation at the beginning of 2009. By the end of 2010, all diesel fuel sold in B.C. will be at least a B5 blend — five per cent biodiesel, 95 per cent regular diesel.

Five per cent may seem low, but an entire network of stations, reliable suppliers and standards that don't void some engine warranties is still being worked out. Alberta, Manitoba and the federal government have plans to follow B.C.'s lead with similar programs, likely with a B2 blend to start.

Stations like Autogas on Main Street in Vancouver use a much higher B20 blend made entirely from post-consumer restaurant kitchen grease. "We pay 2 to 4 cents a litre more for B20 biodiesel, and fill up spots are still limited," says Phil Harbut, who manages FrogBox, a low waste moving supply service in Vancouver. "But think of the carbon emissions that our trucks are not spewing into the air. We are adamant about supporting an alternative to diesel that is easier on the lungs."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The slight cost increase and limited access of biodiesel pale in comparison to supporting fuel with a 75 per cent decrease in carbon emissions, says FrogBox manager Phil Harbut.

Where does biodiesel come from?

- Biodiesel is a clean burning, non-toxic biodegradable alternative fuel that can be combined at any level with regular diesel to fuel diesel engines. It is produced from renewable sources such as canola, soy or palm oils, and as well as waste made mostly from animal fats: low grade recycled cooking oils and trap grease.
- Recycled kitchen grease and damaged crops that cannot be used for food still lead the way, but experts predict that non-food resources, like certain algae and the grow-anywhere yet poisonous jatropha plant could take Canada's biodiesel market more mainstream. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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†All fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Toyota Camry Hybrid specifications based on www.toyota.ca. Honda Insight specifications based on www.honda.ca. Based on estimated fuel consumption ratings. Fusion Hybrid 4.6L/100km city and 5.4L/100km hwy or Fusion S, I-4 automatic 9.3L/100km city and 5.8L/100km hwy (excluding hybrid). Midsize class per 4L, Prix & G. (U.S.) Intermediate per 4L, Prix & Canada. ‡Based on quantities of Fusion S available in Canada. For more information about Ontario Government Alternative Fuels Hybrid Electric Vehicle Sales Tax rebate please refer to www.rev.gov.on.ca/english/tax/ohvrp/. ‡‡Offer includes a new 2009 Ford Fusion Hybrid for $30,999, Fusion Hybrid Limited for $34,999, Escape Hybrid 4WD for $34,999 and Escape Hybrid Limited 4WD for $37,999. Offer includes freight and PDI, excludes taxes and licence. Offer valid from September 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009 (the "Offer Period") and is available on select new 2009 or 2010 Ford Fusion/Escape Hybrid models only. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Factory order may be required. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. ‡‡Receive a winter safety package (which includes four (4) Winter Tires, four (4) steel Rims, and one (1) tire pressure monitoring system) when you purchase, purchase finance or lease any new 2009 or 2010 Ford Focus/Fusion/Escape. If a consumer chooses to opt out of the no extra charge winter safety package they will qualify for $300 in additional delivery allowance applied to the purchase, purchase finance or lease price of a new 2009 or 2010 Ford Focus/Fusion/Escape. This offer is not applicable to any Fleet (other than small fleets with an eligible FNV) or government delivery and not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP or Daily Rental Allowances. Some conditions apply. See Dealer for details. Vehicle handling characteristics, tire load index and speed rating may not be the same as factory supplied all season tires. Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all season tires. Consult your Ford of Canada dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. See participating Dealer for details.

Mauer, Ramirez take batting titles

Minnesota's Joe Mauer all but locked up his third American League batting title in four seasons, and Hanley Ramirez became the first Florida Marlins player to win a National League batting crown yesterday. While Minnesota meets Detroit tomorrow, Mauer would have to go 0-for-18 or worse to drop behind Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Vettel wins Japanese GP

Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel, left, won Formula One's Japanese Grand Prix yesterday to revive his championship hopes. Vettel finished ahead of Toyota's Jarno Trulli and McLaren's Lewis Hamilton in the race at Suzuka. Drivers' championship leader Jenson Button of Brawn GP was eighth, a place below teammate Rubens Barrichello. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Dismal season comes to end

New Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos facing daunting challenges

The Toronto Blue Jays put a dismal and turmoil-laced 2009 season to bed yesterday insisting that their simmering unrest is no longer boiling over and brighter days are ahead.

Bob Marley's Is This Love blared in the clubhouse, perhaps ironically, before a 5-4 loss in 11 innings to the Baltimore Orioles that left them with a 75-87 mark this year, while Cito Gaston again suggested a conspiracy from outside the organization was behind Friday's shocking revelations of player frustration with his approach.

As every corner of the franchise worked to paper over the differences Saturday, catcher Rod Barajas reaffirmed before the finale what several of his teammates admitted publicly Friday, that "there were various small issues. Just various issues that us as players felt we needed to get off our chests."

MLB RESULT

Jays 4 **Orioles** 5 (11 ings)

AT Orioles

That was done Saturday in a meeting between a small group of players and interim CEO Paul Beeston, who later addressed the entire team along with Rogers Media head Tony Viner and new GM Alex Anthopoulos, promoted to replace the fired J.P. Ricciardi.

Asked if the issues could have been addressed earlier, Barajas replied: "Yeah, they could have, absolutely. They could have been. They weren't."

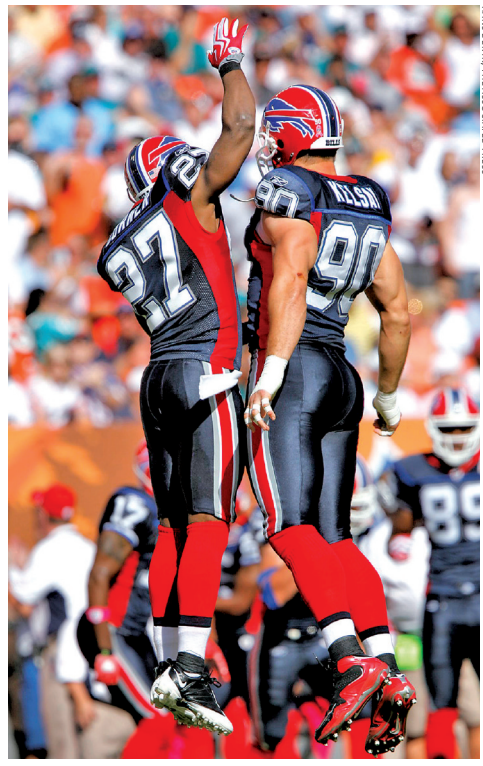
It will now be up to Anthopoulos, a 32-year-old from Montreal who had been an assistant GM with the team, to decide whether or not a disconnect exists between Gaston and players, some of whom said privately there are problems with his approach, negativity and in-game management.

"Unfortunately you had to go through something that someone else planted here, I don't think it came from my players," said Gaston, who denies being negative. "The person who did that, it will come back to get him some kind of way. We might never find out who did it, but it will come back to get him. "

"But right now, I feel a lot better that my players had nothing to do with it."

Anthopoulos faces a daunting task, needing to sort through that mess, settle another set of problems with the coaching staff, and help shape a bigger-picture direction for the future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



HANS DERYK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo cornerback Reggie Corner, left, celebrates Bills defensive end Chris Kelsay's, right, sack of Miami quarterback Chad Henne yesterday during Miami's 38-10 win.

Sports in brief

GOLF Lorena Ochoa successfully defended her Navistar LPGA Classic title, overcoming early troubles to shoot a 2-under 70 yesterday for a four-stroke victory over Michelle Wie and Brittany Lang.

SOCCER The USL-1 league final matchup is set, and it will feature two Canadian teams. Both the Vancouver Whitecaps and the Montreal Impact qualified for the final yesterday by winning their two-leg semifinal matches. Vancouver beat the Portland Timbers 5-4 on aggregate, and the Montreal Impact defeated the Puerto Rico Islanders 4-2 on aggregate.

MARLIES Andre Deveaux scored the shootout winner as the Toronto Marlies edged the Hamilton Bulldogs 3-2 yesterday at Ricoh Coliseum in both teams' opening game of the American Hockey League season.

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Minnesota, Detroit head to one-game divisional playoff

BASEBALL Hang on to those Homer Hankies: The Metrodome isn't ready to close for baseball just yet.

Jason Kubel got those familiar white towels waving with a pair of three-run homers and Minnesota beat Kansas City 13-4 Sunday, putting the Twins into a one-game playoff with the Detroit Tigers for the AL Central title.

The Twins and Tigers, who beat the White Sox 5-3, will meet tomorrow with the division and a post-season date with the New York Yankees on the line.

Scott Baker will start the tiebreaker for the Twins against Detroit rookie Rick Porcello. The teams get a day off because the Minnesota Vikings host Green Bay tonight.

Delmon Young added two solo home runs and Michael Cuddyer also went deep for the Twins, who overcame a three-game deficit by winning its final four games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fins' ball control stops Bills

NFL The Miami Dolphins finally won at keepaway.

With quarterback Chad Henne making his first NFL start, the Dolphins controlled the ball for 37 minutes and earned their first victory by beating hapless Buffalo 38-10 yesterday.

The Dolphins came into the game 0-3 despite a strong running attack and an 11-minute edge per game in time of possession. Against Buffalo (1-3), Miami ran for 250 yards and mounted scoring drives of 65, 66 and 65 yards.

The 28-point margin of victory was Miami's largest since Sept. 8, 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Boss goes back to the ballpark
Yankees owner George Steinbrenner visited with his team for about an hour in the clubhouse before yesterday's regular-season finale against Tampa Bay. The 79-year old Steinbrenner said he is "excited" about the playoffs, which will start later this week for the AL East champions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Enter the CIS

MLS must expand its player pool

It'sCalledFootball

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

No matter how you slice it, MLS has always been a league designed to help Americans win.

I'm not talking about some kind of unfair advantage that sees big market clubs with easier schedules or such — I'm talking about the rules against allowing Canadian university soccer players into the MLS draft.

As it stands now, no team can draft a CIS player through the MLS SuperDraft — the only eligible players compete in the NCAA.

It's not from lack of quality; it stems from the fact that MLS was created as an American domestic league with the express purpose of improving the U.S. men's national team. It's a league that, up until a few years ago, had very little stake in doing anything else.

But now, with one Canadian team in and two more likely on the way for 2011, it's time the league took a look at amending that rule because, despite what the U.S. nationalists will tell you, it's in the league's best interest to do so.

For now, set aside the labour-law issues that would arise and look at the growth that MLS will experience over the next three years: 16 teams today; 18 teams by 2011; and likely 20 teams by 2012.

On the 24-player rosters, an American team must carry at least 12 U.S.-born players. On the Canadian squads it's slightly less — 13 North American players, seven of which must be Canadian.

That works out to 50 more domestic-player spots in the league by 2012. It may not seem like a lot, but 50 more first-team players — talented and willing to play at that salary level — will not be easy to come by.

To prepare, the league has started loosening its rules on signing academy players. But, with the rapid growth and most team academies still in their infancy, it will not be enough to fill those slots.

"Over the last decade no system of scouting and player development has grown as quickly as CIS soccer."

It needs to find another source of domestic players; preferably one that already has a system of development built in.

Enter the CIS. Over the last decade no system of scouting and player development has grown as quickly as CIS soccer. Trinity Western, Montreal and York Universities spring to mind as the best examples. They churn out some of the highest-level talent in the country and if direct access to MLS were available, there is no doubt CIS players would be playing there today.

For what is now clearly a North American league, it's time for it to start exploring other options.

If it doesn't, the MLS talent pool, which has been described as shallow at the best of times, will all but run dry by 2012.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

Chelsea sits atop EPL table after latest win

REBECCA NADEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chelsea's Florent Malouda, right, flies through the air yesterday after a challenge by Liverpool's Javier Mascherano.

SOCCER Chelsea charged to the top of the Premier League with a 2-0 victory over Liverpool yesterday while Arsenal twice fell behind before crushing Blackburn 6-2.

After champion Manchester United had been held 2-2 at home by Sunderland on Saturday, Chelsea took full advantage by beating another title rival at Stamford Bridge with Nicolas Anelka and Florent Malouda scoring second half goals.

"It was important for us to beat Liverpool as they are a direct opponent for the title," said Chelsea striker Didier Drogba. "It was a difficult game as always, but a good one for us. You have to win at home and it is great to get the three points. We are really delighted."

The win gave Chelsea its seventh victory in eight games and made up for last weekend's surprise 3-1 loss at Wigan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

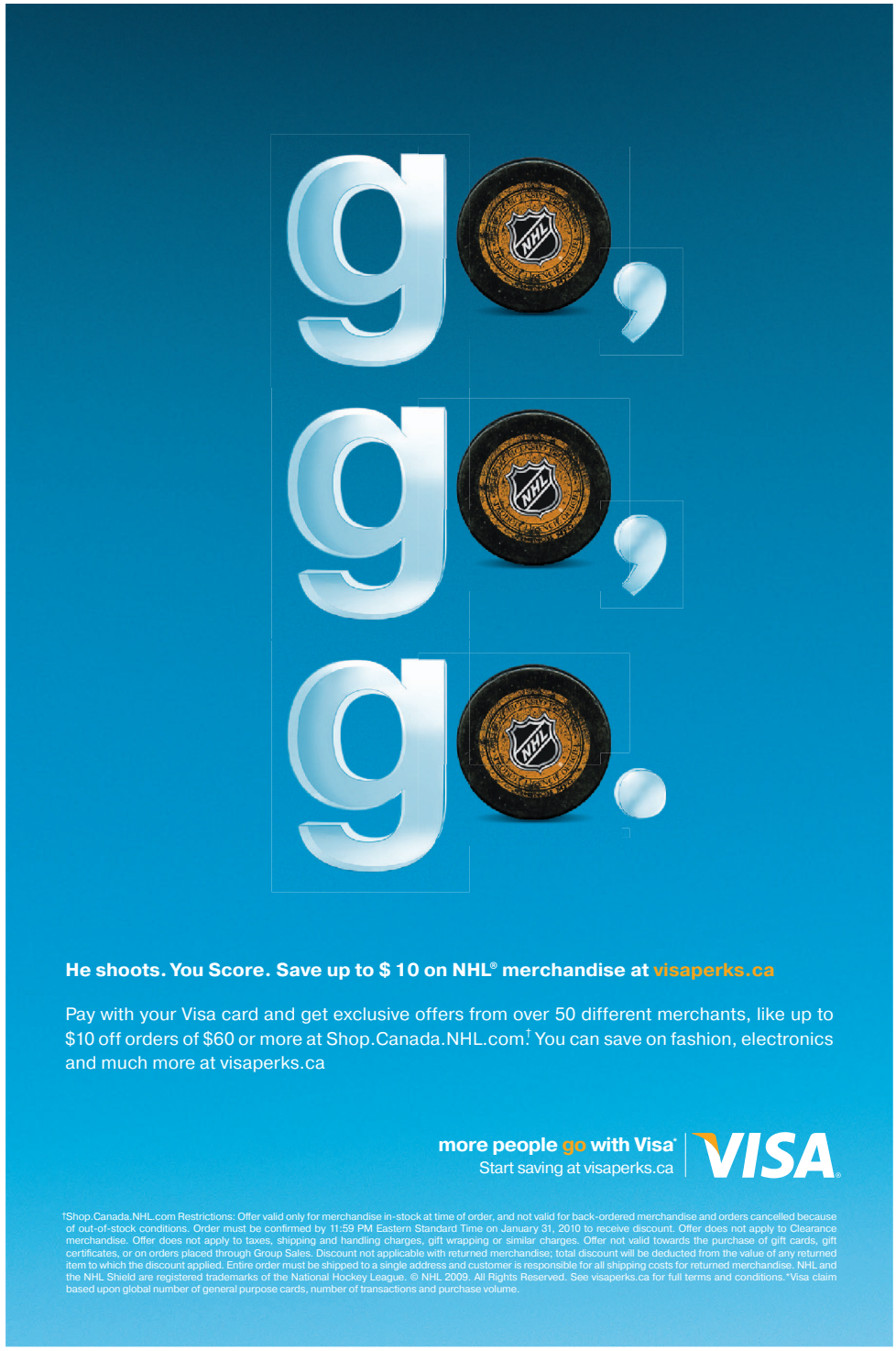
Sports in brief

GOLF Tim Thelen shattered the Callaway Golf PGA Assistant Championship scoring record yesterday, shooting a 4-under 68 to finish at 23-under 265 — seven strokes ahead of second-place Sean Dougherty. Thelen, the 48-year-old PGA assistant professional at The Falls Golf & Country Club in New Ulm, Texas, opened with rounds of 66, 65 and 66 on the PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker Course. He broke the tournament record of 270 set by Kyle Flinton in 2003.

OLYMPICS The International Olympic Committee is setting up a new system to watch for corrupt betting practises linked to Olympic competitions and it will be in place for the 2010 Vancouver winter games. The monitoring program is part of broadening efforts in sports to tackle the menace of corrupt and irregular betting and match-fixing.

NBA The NBA Board of Governors approved the further expansion of instant replay for the upcoming season. Referees will now be able to use replay at any point during the game to determine if a shot attempt or foul occurred prior to a 24-second shot clock violation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



RIM, NSERC award Queen's $5M

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada have made a $5 million investment in a new Industrial Research Chair in Software Engineering of Ultra Large Scale Systems at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

UBC = $10,000,000,000?

According to a new report from the University of British Columbia, the institution had a $10-billion impact on the B.C. economy in 2008-09. The study found that half of the university's contributions to the provincial economy come from salaries and construction ($1.9 billion), visitor and student spending ($618 million), and a global UBC-educated workforce ($2.6 billion). METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Time to rethink MBAs?

Canadian schools confident in their programs, despite market slump

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

While the recent market meltdown has seen many experts calling for a re-evaluation of MBA education, several top Canadian MBA schools insist that human greed, not management instruction, is to blame.

With so many highly educated, MBA-wielding corporate leaders now mired in shame and guilt for their role in causing the market collapse, some powerhouse U.S. schools like Harvard and Stanford have quietly been talking about re-examining their teaching practices.

Canadian schools however remain adamant in their own curricula, propped up by Canada's relatively soft landing in the recent plunge.

At the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, a dedicated course in Ethics has been a mandatory curriculum requirement for MBA students for the past five years and overall the school is not planning any major changes in curriculum.

Richard Powers, associate dean at Rotman, says that when it comes to training future leaders, schools like Rotman work hard to instil a sense of corporate responsibility upon students but ultimately can only lead a horse to water — they can't force it to drink.

"If anyone's bent on fraud, they're going to find a way. What we can do is teach students ethical decision-making models to give them the tools to make the right decisions."
Richard Powers, associate dean at U of T's Rotman School of Management

"I don't think there's anything we can do that's going to stop some of these activities. If anyone's bent on fraud, they're going to find a way. What we can do is teach students ethical decision-making models to give them the tools to make the right decisions," Powers said.

Don Melville, director of MBA and Masters programs at the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University in Montreal, also feels MBA educations aren't to blame for the human weaknesses that caused the crash.

He believes Desautels' MBA program, which includes small classes and a focus on reflective discussion, is designed to give students a strong sense of duty.

"I don't think (the market crash) was an MBA issue, I feel it was a human issue. Some students are going to be in it for the money — our goal here is to teach that there's something more than that," Melville said.

Melville also points out that many of the shamed leaders blamed for the current crisis graduated from their MBAs decades ago, long before the modern wave of tightened outlooks on ethics and sustainability.

Wendy Ma, assistant dean and director of the MBA programs at the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia, says the school has always been focussed on corporate responsibility and recent events have just added more ammunition to instructors' teaching agenda.

"It's like a bomb was dropped and a lot of people are saying 'Let's make sure this never happens again,'" Ma said.

Workology in **brief**

UR GUARANTEE The University of Regina has launched a new program called UR Guarantee, designed to secure all student who complete the program requirements a job in their field within six months of graduating. All 2009 undergraduate students with 30 or less credit hours are eligible. Students who complete the UR Guarantee program but don't find work within six months of graduating, can then take another 30 undergraduate credit hours during the following year and the University of Regina will cover the cost of tuition.

GLASS CEILING IS STILL THERE According to a survey conducted by Research firm Catalyst, in 2009 the majority of women in business in Canada continue to make up labour force, not the top executive jobs. While 46.9 per cent of businesswomen make up the labour force, just 5.6 per cent of hold jobs as top business earners and only 13 per cent of women hold positions as board directors, indicating that there is still a glass ceiling when it comes to women's advancements in the business world.

MORE WOMEN IN THE LABOUR FORCE A recently released Statistics Canada survey found that women outnumber men in the Canadian labour force. According to the survey, in the first half of 2009, there were 7.1 million women paid in employment, compared to just 6.9 million men. However, the study did not include self-employed Canadians or those who are actively seeking work. Although women are getting more work, it's at a much lower rate than men; about 71 cents to the dollar. The sector that women predominate is the service sector, which includes health care.

–HEATHER BUCHAN

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Mounting the finished work
Most of bird taxidermist Richard Davis's final pieces get mounted on a simple piece of driftwood. But some higher-end orders call for a glass box and scenery around it. These are his favourite projects, and he creates things like twigs and grass using fibreglass resin. DIANE PETERS/FOR METRO CANADA

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OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Stuffing and mounting birds, like this eagle, is Richard Davis' new passion as a taxidermist.

Some say we're all artists in our own way. But Richard Davis was an artist who sold cars and helped run a dealership for 20 years.

As a child and teen, he loved to paint and draw. His parents just recently painted over the mural he created on his old bedroom wall.

But Davis had always worked for his dad at his car dealership in Tillsonburg, Ont., so he began full time when he finished high school.

Davis was good at his job. He was a top salesman and, thanks partially to two university-level management programs he took in his 20s, helped the business weather some tough times.

Then, 17 years ago, he went to a taxidermist's shop to have a fish mounted. He began tinkering with the tools, and somehow knew instinctively what to do. So, he started learning the job.

Eventually, Davis's freelance work started paying enough for him to quit his job — luckily his house was paid off and his wife had a full-time job. To avoid competing with the taxidermist who had taught him, Davis just worked with birds.

His basement workspace is very simple: It's unfinished except for florescent lights over his workbench. Davis used to keep live birds so he could observe at them as he created. Now, he surrounds himself with bird books and tacked up pictures of winged creatures. "Your brain absorbs information without you realizing it."

Davis starts each project by making an incision along the belly of a dead bird — most clients are hunters but he'll also mount birds he finds dead in the woods or along the road — and pulls the skin and feathers off in one piece.

Usually, the bird has been frozen soon after death and there's little smell.

He puts the pelt through two hand washes and then gives it a soak in naphtha fuel (which is used in lanterns) to remove the grease — otherwise the bird will be an eternal dust collector.

Davis rarely uses real bones and skulls in his final work. Skulls in particular can shrink over time. So he's got his own collection of custom-make skeletons in plastic and foam core.

He chooses the right size and shape for the bird he's working on, builds it up, then puts the pelt on. Then it's just a matter of sewing it all together.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Bird taxidermist
Salary: $325 and up per mounted bird
Education/training: Most are self-taught, it's offered as a university program in the U.S. only
Best Part of the Job: "Art for me is not work."
Worst Part of the Job: "I work alone. There's no water cooler sessions, it's you and a dead animal."

Chronological still the way to go with resumés

When it comes to crafting the perfect resumé, a "top-down" approach is still employers' favorite, a recent survey confirms.

The Accountemps survey and conducted by an independent research firm.

Senior executives were asked, "Do you prefer to receive a resumé written in a chronological format that is organized by dates of employment, or one in a functional format that is organized by skills?"

THEIR RESPONSES:
- Chronological 75 per cent
- Functional 17 per cent
- No preference eight per cent

"Chronological resumés allow job seekers to present their career progression to prospective employers in a straightforward, easy-to-follow way," said Max Messmer, chairman of Accountemps. "Functional resumés, which emphasize skill sets rather than jobs held, are popular among professionals in career transition or who have had lengthy gaps in employment, but they are not a favorite of employers. It is often better to address a career challenge directly than try to write around it."

SOME ADVICE:
- Employment gaps: Offer a brief explanation for any gaps in your cover letter.
- Limited work history: Bolster your work experience through internships, part-time work or temporary assignments obtained through a reputable staffing firm.
- Appearing overqualified: Provide a summary of pertinent skills and strengths at the top of your resumé, in addition to a chronological listing of your work experience.
- Desire for a career change: Highlight your accomplishments and skills that would best transfer to the new industry.

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So that's where he went...

Popular country musician Garth Brooks took a five-year career break in 2000 to be with his three daughters and still has a greatly reduced concert and recording schedule to be a hands-on father. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shifting priorities of men

Learning to adjust after the rat race

Greg Sorbara knows exactly how David Miller is feeling.

Less than two years ago, Sorbara left his powerful cabinet post as Ontario's finance minister to spend more time with his family.

"For me, it was so hard, it was physically painful," says Sorbara, who has six children. "I was worried about what would happen when I was no longer a very important person."

What happened was Friday night dinners with four generations around the table, weekends restoring an old farmhouse in Prince Edward County with family and dates with his wife.

Sorbara, still a sitting MPP, predicts that Miller will already be experiencing the effects of his announcement last Friday that he wouldn't seek a third term in office in order to spend more time with his family.

"Right away he will feel the release of pressure," says Sorbara, as Miller will be able to scale back engagements and activities deemed necessary for re-election.

Miller is part of a growing wave of men who are choosing a better work-life balance, says Carleton University's Linda Duxbury, a professor of management and strategy.

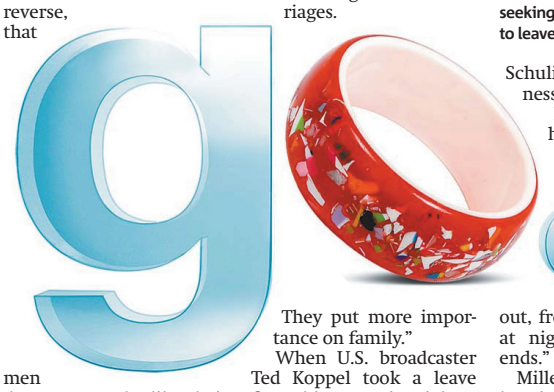
"We are seeing it more and more. When women entered the workforce, we were worried they'd be more like men — smoking, drinking and being aggressive.

"What we've seen is the reverse, that men don't want to be like their fathers. They care about their kids and they are married to women who say, 'Step up, big boy.'"

"They are married to women who are as educated as they are, earn as much as they are making and have egalitarian marriages. They put more importance on family."
Linda Duxbury with Carleton University

Duxbury says Miller's move will get widespread approval, especially from Gen X men, who've been raised to expect equality in marriages and shared parenting.

"They are married to women who are as educated as they are, earn as much as they are making and have egalitarian marriages.



They put more importance on family."

When U.S. broadcaster Ted Koppel took a leave from his reporting job at ABC in 1976 to take care of his children (so his wife could go to law school), he was a pretty rare bird.

But marriages of successful people today often have a "your time, my time" deal, says professor Ellen Auster, of York University's Schulich School of Business.

When Toronto Mayor David Miller announced that he wouldn't be seeking reelection, he joined a growing rank of men who decide to leave higher-up positions to spend more time with their family.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Being mayor is a 24-hour a day job, she points out, and for the past five years Miller, who is married to a lawyer, "has gone full out, from breakfast to late at night, working weekends."

Miller's daughter, Julia, has just entered Grade 9 and will have only four more years at home before university.

"As the mother of a 9th grader and 11th grader, I am aware there is not much time left to have those special moments," says Auster.

Whether a man will suffer later in his career for having taken time to be with his kids "depends on how you do it," says the expert in strategic management.

They need to give lots of lead time so that a succession plan can be created for the organization, whether it's a business or government post, she says.

In a stressed-out world, many people will empathize with a decision to opt for family, she says.

"Most people will say, 'I get that.' It's the choice many of us would make if we had the courage and the opportunity."

She agrees that leaving a job for family is an option only for people who can afford it. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What people will say to coworkers

INTERESTING Nobody likes to point out potentially embarrassing situations, but when faced with them in the office, here's what your co-workers you would tell you, according to a CareerBuider survey:

- Your zipper is undone:
  - Same level co-worker 67 per cent;
  - Lower level co-worker 62 per cent;
  - Higher level co-worker 50 per cent.
- You have something in your nose:
  - Same level co-worker 51 per cent;
  - Lower level co-worker 46 per cent;
  - Higher level co-worker 33 per cent.
- You have food in your teeth or on your face:
  - Same level co-worker 66 per cent;
  - Lower level co-worker 60 per cent;
  - Higher level co-worker 49 per cent.
- Your hair is messy:
  - Same level co-worker 33 per cent;
  - Lower level co-worker 30 per cent;
  - Higher level co-worker 13 per cent.
- You have a stain:
  - Same level co-worker 51 per cent;
  - Lower level co-worker 47 per cent;
  - Higher level co-worker 34 per cent.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Big screen Friends
Rumours continue to fly over news that the cast of Friends is finally ready to take Central Perk to the big screen. The U.K.'s Daily Mail reported over the weekend that the movie was definitely a go. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment

Spare prince
Rupert Grint and Robert Pattinson have both been tipped to play Prince Harry in a movie about the British royal's life. Director Peter Kosminsky is set to begin casting for biopic The Spare. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Will female fans forgive?

David Letterman should probably care what women think about him — and not just his wife.

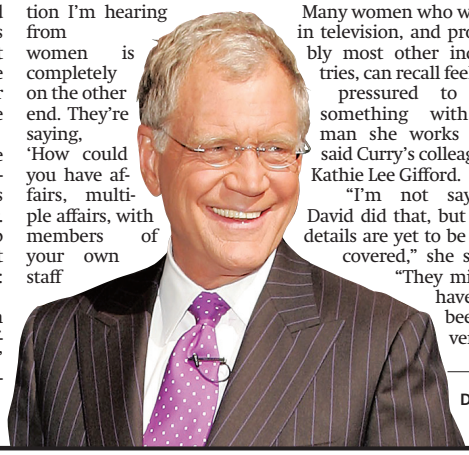
His back to back scandals this year — a crude joke about Sarah Palin's daughter and revelations through an alleged blackmail attempt by a CBS producer that Letterman had sexual relationships with Late Show staff members — are likely to hit his reputation hardest with women.

There are still many unknowns following Letterman's startling admission last week: How many women were involved? Did the relationships end well? Did women feel pressured by the boss' advances, or were they happily consensual? Did any other staffers feel the way to get ahead was through Letterman's bed? Are women who did not have intimate relations with Letterman upset that those who did may have gotten special treatment or career advances? Is anyone talking to lawyers?

All could determine whether Letterman is significantly damaged or if it's just a footnote to his career.

Certainly, it can't help when the New York Post blares on its front page: Dirty Dave's Harem.'

"It's very interesting. Men and women think very differently about this story," NBC News anchor Ann Curry said. "The men I've talked to think, 'How could a person within your own company kind of betray you like this?' But the reaction I'm hearing from women is completely on the other end. They're saying, 'How could you have affairs, multiple affairs, with members of your own staff and how does that create a fair and equal working environment?'"



David Letterman has admitted to having sex with some of his co-workers.

Many women who work in television, and probably most other industries, can recall feeling pressured to do something with a man she works for, said Curry's colleague, Kathie Lee Gifford.

"I'm not saying David did that, but the details are yet to be discovered," she said. "They might have been very willing partners who initiated it. We don't know, but the minute we hear stories like that we go, 'Uh-huh.'"

Letterman's prickly personality and sarcastic humor seem tailor-made for a young, male audience. But the facts tell a different story: His typical audience was 58 per cent female last season, with an average age of just under 55, according to the Nielsen Co.

In other words, he should care very much whether women are disgusted by his behavior and reject his comedy as a result. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SNL pokes fun at Letterman

PEOPLE Add Saturday Night Live to the shows making sport of David Letterman's difficulties.

On SNL, Weekend Update anchor Seth Meyers dubbed the extortion attempt by a CBS News producer "a stupid human trick." Meyers added the would-be blackmailer was threatening to reveal embarrassing details of

Letterman's personal life, then gave a joking example: "After sex, he would always say, 'Stay tuned for Craig Ferguson.'"

Still to be heard from: Jon Stewart on The Daily Show and Stephen Colbert on The Colbert Report. Both shows do not air Fridays, but are back with fresh episodes tonight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaga is going on tour

Lady Gaga is going on tour — without Kanye West, according to Billboard. Gaga broke the news hours after Gaga and West's Fame Kills Tour was cancelled late last week. **POPEATER.COM**

A witty, wine-soaked debut

Corked

Author: Kathryn Borel Jr.
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons Canada
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

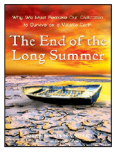
In this witty, wine-soaked debut memoir by Toronto author Kathryn Borel Jr., father and daughter connect through a passion one is obsessed with and the other knows nothing about. Philippe Borel has tried to share his vinous vigor with daughter Kathryn, but his efforts have been lost on her. That's until an accidental death brings Kathryn to the realization ignorance of wine equates ignorance of her dad. Corked follows the duo as they embarks on a wine tour in France, as frustrating as it is fulfilling, to discover wine, life and each other.

Baking Cakes in Kigali

Authors: Gaile Parkin
Publisher: McClelland & Stewart
Price: $28.99 (Hardcover)

For Angel Tungaraza, cake is more than just a sweet concoction of flour, sugar and icing; it's an opportunity for her to help others and learn about herself. When she leaves Tanzania for Rwanda with her husband Pius and their five orphaned grandchildren, Angel sets up shop as a cake baker, with no short supply of customers who want her tailored treats. Using 14 different cakes, Baking Cakes in Kigali introduces us to the characters behind each one, who use Angel as baker, matchmaker and counselor while helping her find solace.

BookPicks



The End of the Long Summer

Author: Dianne Dumanoski
Publisher: Crown
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

Environmental journalist Dianne Dumanoski uses The End of the Long Summer to explain how, despite green movements and efforts to abate climate change, humans are unprepared to cope with significant environmental changes on planet Earth. Old social values perpetuated by government must be adapted, she argues, if we have any shot at surviving global-scale climactic shifts. Using records of history and science, Dumanoski explores how we arrived at this juncture in human history and theorizes what people must do.

BRIAN COULTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Jackson kids adjusting

Judge pleased with investigator's report

Michael Jackson's three children seem to be adjusting well to being raised by their grandmother, a judge said.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff said Friday he was "very pleased" with the contents of a probate investigator's report detailing how the children are adjusting roughly three months after their father's death.

"It looks like the children are really doing wonderfully with their grandmother guardian," Beckloff said in brief comments on the report during the hearing.

Prince Michael, 12, Paris, 11, and Prince II, 7, have been in Katherine Jackson's care since their father died in late June. Beckloff appointed Katherine Jackson as the children's permanent guardian in August and asked for an update on their conditions.

In his 2002 will, Michael Jackson designated his mother as his choice to care for his children if he died.

Beckloff sealed the report on the children and said he sees no need to get future updates.

Katherine Jackson, Michael Jackson's mother, is the guardian of her son's children.

Beckloff also increased the powers of two men currently administering Michael Jackson's estate, a move made in part because of the singer's substantial debts.

Beckloff gave attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain general powers over Jackson's estate, which allow them to consider creditors' claims. They can also enter into business deals that aren't opposed by Katherine Jackson without Beckloff's approval, and they can begin to represent the estate in several court cases pending against the singer when he died.

The judge made the ruling over the objections of Katherine Jackson's attorney.

Numerous people have already filed claims against the pop singer's estate for unpaid bills. They include a stylist, security providers and Jackson's criminal defence attorneys who won his acquittal against child molestation charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child care

- Michael Jackson's estate is paying a $60,000 per month stipend to care for and protect his youngsters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-fiance of Housewives cast member dies
Ashley "A.J." Jewell, the former fiance of a cast member from The Real Housewives of Atlanta, died Friday night after a fight outside an Atlanta strip club. Police have charged a man in his death. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hung jury in theft of Dunst's bag

Dunst

LEGAL A jury has deadlocked on the most serious charges against a mechanic accused in the theft of Kirsten Dunst's $2,000 handbag during a Manhattan movie shoot.

James Jimenez was convicted Friday of a misdemeanor count of criminal trespass. Jurors deadlocked on burglary and other charges in the case, which included testimony from the Spider-Man actress.

Jimenez testified he slipped into a penthouse suite at the SoHo Grand Hotel in August 2007, and the co-defendant took Dunst's bag and other items.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Correction

• Dutch DJ Tiesto was misidentified in an article that appeared in Friday's Metro. He debuted his new album, Kaleidoscope, in Toronto on the weekend.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A 'life-changing' trip

Disney actress visits Africa as UNICEF ambassador

She's a Disney teen queen, a TV wizard, and a fledgling rock singer.

But 17-year-old Selena Gomez says what really blew her mind recently was a trip to the African nation of Ghana.

"I got to meet teens, I got to meet children, I got to meet families," Gomez said in an interview Friday about the trip, which she took last month with her mother and stepfather in her role as UNICEF's youngest-ever ambassador.

"It was completely life-changing and eye-opening, and when we came back we definitely had nothing to complain about."

This is Gomez's second year as spokesperson for the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF program, which the organization says is one of the longest-running youth volunteer movements in America. Last year, Gomez raised some $700,000 for the campaign; this year she hopes to bring in $1 million.

"I feel very honoured to have a voice that kids listen to and take into consideration."
Selena Gomez, singer/actress

Many kids who watch Gomez play Alex Russo on the Disney Channel's Wizards of Waverly Place know little about Africa or the issues facing it, Gomez noted. "That's why I feel very honoured to have a voice that kids listen to and take into consideration,"' she said. "I had people on my tour asking me where IS Ghana, and they Googled it ... and because I went there, they now know where Ghana is. So it's pretty incredible."

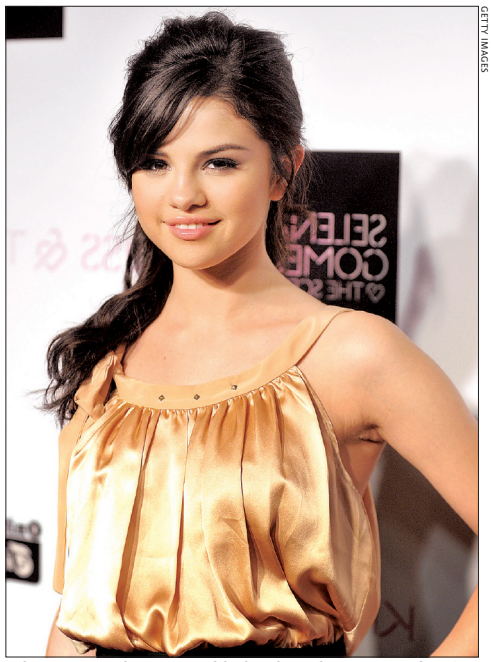
It's a busy time for Gomez, whose series returns for a third season on Oct. 9, and who just this week released her debut album, Kiss&Tell, with her band, The Scene.

"I can't believe I have a CD!" she said. But she added: ``Acting will always be my number one. I just love acting so much. Music is more of a personal thing I like to do.''

Gomez's success at Disney has led to inevitable comparisons with another teen sensation, Miley Cyrus. But Gomez says emphatically she's ``not here to be the next anyone.''

``I'm not here to replace anyone,'' she says. ``I'm here doing my own thing. I'm proud to be a part of the Disney Channel family and I'm taking it day by day.''

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


GETTY IMAGES
Selena Gomez, the 17-year-old who plays Alex Russo on the Disney Channel's Wizards of Waverly Place, is UNICEF's youngest-ever ambassador. She recently visited Ghana in this role.

Mix of Six
Metro taps into today's best event picks

MUSIC
Bob Mould, Miles Benjamin and Anthony Robinson perform tonight at 9:30 p.m. at the Mod Club, 722 College St. Tickets are $22.50. Visit ticketmaster.ca or call 416-870-8000.

APPEARANCE
Ellen Hopkins, the author of Tricks — about five different young people who fall into prostitution for five different reasons — will be at Indigo Yorkdale, 3401 Dufferin St., at 7 p.m.

PHOTOS
The Royal Ontario Museum is featuring 150 iconic images of legends like Madonna, Bette Davis, Louis Armstrong and Cary Grant in the exhibit Vanity Fair Portraits: Photographs 1913-2008. rom.on.ca

CIRQUE
Cirque Du Soleil's Ovo features a colourful world where insects play, work, eat and fight. The tent has been set up at the Port Lands (on Cherry Street). Visit cirquedusoleil.com.

BOOKS
Tuesdays with Morrie author Mitch Albom will be interviewed at Indigo, 55 Bloor St. W., at 7:30 p.m. He will be signing copies of his new book, Have A Little Faith.

WE DAY
Free the Children will be holding its We Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Air Canada Centre. The free event will feature Hedley, Pinball Clemmons and Robert Kennedy Jr. freethechildren.com.

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Stefani celebrates 40

Gwen Stefani celebrated the big 4-0 on Saturday with an afternoon birthday bash at the exclusive Italian restaurant Ceccon's in West Hollywood. The singer was joined by her hubby Gavin Rossdale, their children and friends. USMAGAZINE.COM

In brief

ARREST A New York actor who played a steroids dealer in The Wrestler has admitted in court that he was the real thing. Scott Siegel of New Rochelle pleaded guilty Friday to distributing anabolic steroids. The 34-year-old also admitted trying to run down the agents who arrested him. Sentencing guidelines point to a prison term of about five years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eminem publisher settles suit

Apple Inc. and the music publisher for Eminem have settled a lawsuit over the digital downloading rights to many of the Detroit rapper's songs, a lawyer said Friday.

Eight Mile Style LLC claimed that its contract with Aftermath Records did not authorize the record label to strike a download deal with Apple and the popular iTunes service.

Eminem

Eight Mile and another plaintiff, Martin Affiliated LLC, were seeking millions of dollars, alleging copyright violations on 93 songs, including Eminem's biggest hit, Lose Yourself.

"The case was settled to the satisfaction of all parties," Eight Mile attorney Richard Busch said. He said terms of the deal are confidential. The agreement was reached after five days of trial in federal court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Box office

The top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning Oct. 2:

1. **Zombieland:** $25 million US
2. **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs:** $16.7 million
3. **Toy Story/Toy Story 2 :** $12.5 million
4. **The Invention of Lying:** $7.4 million
5. **Surrogates:** $7.3 million
6. **Capitalism: A Love Story:** $4.9 million
7. **Whip It:** $4.9 million
8. **Fame:** $4.8 million
9. **The Informant!:** $3.8 million
10. **Love Happens:** $2.8 million

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Milian pregnant
Amid much speculation, Christina Milian now confirms that she is going to have a baby. "My husband and I are expecting," she said. "We're about four and a half months along, about 19 weeks." PEOPLE.COM

Little miss shotgun

In Zombieland, Breslin trades cuteness for killer instinct

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

This may be difficult to digest but little Abigail Breslin may be Hollywood's newest action hero.

You can laugh but it's true. While the Oscar-nominated youngster behind Little Miss Sunshine is unlikely to become the next Chuck Norris, in her latest comic thriller, Breslin has taken up a shotgun to blast her way through Zombieland, which topped the weekend box office with $25 million in gross takings.

"I never thought I'd be in a zombie movie so it was kind of fun to do," said Breslin during a recent phone interview from New York.

"I don't know if I'm trying to branch out. I just do each movie because of the character and the story so I just really liked Little Rock (her character).

"She's a con-artist and she's really tough, smart and really brave and fun to play and it's a zombie movie — how can you not want to (do it)!"

Described by director Ruben Fleischer as "Midnight Run with zombies," Breslin's latest movie casts her and Emma Stone (Superbad) as clever sisters who coerce fellow rambling apocalypse survivors Woody Harrelson and Jesse Eisenberg (Adventureland) to sojourn to sunny California in order to seek refuge at an amusement park from a worldwide plague that has turned everyone into the walking dead.

"I never thought I'd be in a zombie movie so it was kind of fun to do."
Abigail Breslin

Although spending the opening weeks of production surrounded by carnival rides was thrilling, perhaps the only thing more surprising for Breslin was her adopted skill at shooting zombies — an attribute Stone has praised her 13-year-old co-star for.

"That was nice of her to say but the first time I was not very good," insisted Breslin. "Once you get used to it, it's not so hard but you still have to go through all of the gun safety stuff."

She may now be wielding firearms and killing zombies in R-rated fashion with Woody Harrelson but don't expect Breslin to be any less an innocent kid. Perhaps best exemplified by her infamous on-set "curse jar," Breslin kept her adult co-stars in check by collecting money for charity each time someone stepped out of line and cursed in her company.

"I don't think I even counted up how much we made. I think everyone was trying to watch (their language)," laughed Breslin when asked about her well-behaved castmembers. "Nobody stands out in my mind (as being a potty mouth)."

Abigail Breslin battles the walking dead in Zombieland.

MetroGlobalPhotoChallenge

Photogatto Orange Harbour

Polanski agreed to deal: Records

SETTLEMENT Court records show Roman Polanski agreed to pay his sexual assault victim $500,000 to settle a lawsuit 15 years after he fled the United States.

The film director's attorney reached the deal in 1993. Records do not indicate if Polanski paid.

The last court filing shows the payment increased to $604,000 in 1996 because of interest.

Polanski's attorney in the case — David Finkle — declined to comment Friday.

Polanski pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl. He fled in 1978 before he was sentenced and is being held in Switzerland after his arrest there last weekend on a fugitive warrant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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X-Weighted tackles families

'When you see a kid distraught, it makes you distraught'

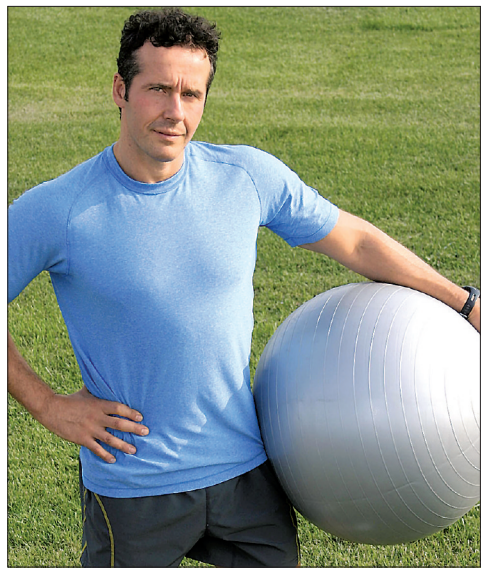
IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Paul Plakas has seen a lot of laziness in his 18 years as a personal trainer and TV fitness expert. But nothing quite prepared him for the families he helped out on the fourth season of the series X-Weighted.

"I've seen a few things that shocked me over the years, but every once and awhile ... wow," says Plakas, from his Edmonton home.

"There was this 15- or 16-year-old girl who sent out something like a thousand text messages a month. She'd text message her mom in the kitchen to see if dinner was ready. And her mom enabled her by texting back."

That's just one example of the 13 families on board for the fourth season of X-Weighted, which turns its focus from individuals to families and the epidemic of fat kids in this country.


Paul Plakas, fitness expert on the show X-Weighted.

According to Statistics Canada, there are three times as many overweight children in Canada as 25 years ago. And while Plakas says things like stress and the rise of prepackaged foods have played a small role in that increase, he places much of the blame on the parents.

"Mostly it's the parents fault their kids are overweight. It's the parents who ultimately allow it to happen and create the lifestyle. You don't find many fit kids living with fat parents."

The surprising thing that comes out of the new season of X-Weighted is the emotional toll that body image has on kids — some of whom are as young as eleven.

Though ultimately, the families get back on the road to healthy living, it can be a rough journey to watch.

"It's a tough season. It feels at times like an hour of crying. And when you see a kid distraught, it makes you distraught."

Plakas, who previously dispensed fitness advice on the Gemini-winning series Taking It Off, says he himself must be constantly vigilant about what he eats — especially in public.

"I get recognized all the time. So I'm very conscious of what I order in public. I remember someone caught me in a chocolate shop once and asked if I really should be eating that. I had to agree — probably not."

• X-Weighted: Families airs Thursday night on Slice.

to	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/5/09	265	353	2	TVO	Victorian Farm (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders			Henry VIII: Mind of a Tyrant		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "The Tyrant" (N)		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)			Heroes "Acceptance" (N)		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:		The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Battle-Blades	Little Mosque	Just for Laughs (N)			CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma "All's Fair" (N)			The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV) (Live)					(10:02) CSI: Miami (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Boys and Girls* ★ (2000, Romance-Comedy), Claire Forlani				*The Trigger Effect* ★★ (1996, Suspense) Kyle MacLachlan.					News at 11 (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		CIA, guerres secrètes		*Les Choses de la vie* ★★★ (1970, Drame)				Villages	Bibliotheca
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition			Two/Half Men	King	My Postpartum
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	*Black Mask* ★★ (1996, Action) Jet Li, Karen Mok.					The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th		CSI: Miami "Bolt Action"		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Heroes "Acceptance" (N)		Trauma "All's Fair" (N)			The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV) (Live)					(10:02) Castle (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th		(10:02) Castle (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House "The Tyrant" (N)		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)			Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		Inventing LA: The Chandlers and Their Times (HDTV) (N)					Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)			PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier		The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Our World	CBC News: Tonight (N)		CBC News: The National			Wired		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)			Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		The Business of Innovation (N)		The NEW Age of Wal-Mart				Put It on-Map	Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	PartyPoker.net		Week-Baseball	Over the Bolts	Air Racing			Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown	NFL Football Green Bay Packers at Minnesota Vikings. (HDTV) (Live)							
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman			Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like		The Next Star		Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill		American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek		Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It (N)			House-Sell	Save Us-House	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	You Can Dance			Dance	Love Court	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds "P911"		Intervention		Intervention (HDTV)			Hoarders "Tara; Betty"		Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Questa è la Mia Terra Vent'Anni Dopo					George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out		Brooke Knows	Brooke Knows	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*Shock to the System* ★★ (2006, Mystery) Chad Allen.					Bones (HDTV)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Ahead of the Curve		Asylum of Spoons		*Caesar and Cleopatra* (2009, Comedy), Peter Donaldson					Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Last 10	Re-Vamped			Plastic-Perfect	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	True Story of the Big Red One		Patton 360		Battles BC (N)			*We Were Soldiers* ★★★ (2002, War)		
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park		Finesse Mitchell: Snap		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor (N)	My First Place		House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU			*The Fighting Temptations* (2003, Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Phat Girlz* ★★ (2006, Comedy) Mo'Nique, Godfrey.					Mo'nique Sh.	The Game	Movie
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Scream* ★★★ (1996, Horror) Neve Campbell, David Arquette. Premiere.					
	581	566	52	MTV	Cribs	After	Disaster Date	Over the Bolts	The Hills	The City		True Life		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback		Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Food Jammers	Food Jammers	Top Chef: Las Vegas (N)			At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Green Grass	Summer Wine	McLeod's Daughters			Unscripted (N)	Archaeologist	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)			The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos		Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	La Classe de 5e (N) (SC)		Yamaska (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Lance et compte			TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)			RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing		The Closer			Da Vinci's Inquest		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:15) *They Wait* (2007)		Sanctuary "Requiem"		Dexter			Californication	U.S. of Tara	Sanctuary
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *The Hanging Garden* ★★★ (1997, Drama)				*The Dead Zone* (1983, Science Fiction)				*John Carpenter's Vampires*	

critics'corner

Wired for Sex, Lies and Power Trips: It's a Teen's World
Sex sells. That's nothing new. What is relatively new is the way sexuality is being sold to teenagers. In this new documentary, filmmaker Lynn Glazier talks with three groups of teens about the sexual messages that they're getting from popular culture. What emerges is a worldview in which the lines between "sexy" and "sexual harassment" are blurred. 10 PM on NW

Heroes
Hiro attempts to take his mind off his own perilous situation by focusing on saving the lives of others. Angela tries to help Nathan remember his past — just not too much of it. Tracy vows to get her old job back in the new episode "Acceptance." 8 PM on NBC; 10 PM on GTV

Trauma
The team springs into action after a car crashes into a street fair, causing horrific damage. Nancy gets a new partner, while Rabbit (Cliff Curtis) decides to teach Marisa (Aimee Garcia) a lesson. Derek Luke, Kevin Rankin and Jamey Sheridan also star in the new episode "All's Fair." 9 PM on NBC CITY

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Beckinsale Esquire's top hottie
Kate Beckinsale has been named Esquire magazine's Sexiest Woman Alive. The Underworld star, 36, takes the crown from Halle Berry, who was named last year's top lady, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

No cheap, tacky publicity for LiLo

BIG BRO BAD Looks like Lindsay Lohan isn't interested in taking part in the upcoming season of Celebrity Big Brother in the U.K., despite attempts by the show's producers to coax the troubled starlet into their house.

"Producers have been calling and emailing her whole team and it has been a pass," Lohan's rep tells the Daily Mail. "This is a tacky way to get cheap publicity."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Katy Perry finds her inspiration for Halloween this year: Karl Lagerfeld, who has some not-so-cheery thoughts about fashion, and Chris Brown loves his Mexican food.

• @katyperry just interviewed Karl Lagerfeld... he was so lovely. I think I'ma be him for halloween. Collar, boots, gloves and all. Twerk!

• @Karl_Lagerfeld Fashion's life is short. It's six months, six months, six months. It's not something you do for a great future.

• @MechanicalDummy qdoba mexican grill is so bomb

Jon plus cash, minus for Kate

OUCH The nasty war between Jon and Kate Gosselin just took its ugliest turn yet, people.com reports.

According to Radar Online, Jon cleared out the couple's joint bank account, leaving his estranged wife with just $1,000 US. Another account, set up for the Gosselin children, was untouched, Radar reports.

A source familiar with the situation confirmed the details of the report to People, and said Kate plans to take legal action, adds the magazine.

When initially reached for comment, a rep for Jon was unaware of the situation and had no comment.

The allegation against Jon caps an intensely bitter week between the couple, during which their TLC series Jon & Kate Plus Eight suspended production. The move followed the network's announcement on Sept. 29 that Jon was being dropped from the show, and him saying he wanted stop the show because it was damaging his children.

Speaking to CNN interviewer Larry King Thursday, Jon, 32, said he last spoke to Kate "3½ weeks ago," and that she wants to keep the show going "for financial reasons."

Asked by King how much he made from the series last year, Jon replied $1 million before taxes, $500,000 after.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Beyonce's papa slapped with paternity suit

THANKS DAD Beyonce Knowles' father, Mathew Knowles, has been slapped with a paternity suit by a Los Angeles woman, according to TMZ.

Alexsandra Wright alleges that she is six month's pregnant with Mathew's child.

Femalefirst.co.uk reports top lawyer Neal Hersh is representing the woman. Tmz.com reports Wright works in the name-branding business.

News of the lawsuit broke just hours after Beyonce had picked up Billboard magazine's Woman of The Year Award in New York.

Mathew has been married to Beyonce's mom, Tina Knowles, since 1980. He could not be reached for comment.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Stewart laments fame

BOO HOO Kristen Stewart admits that starring in the Twilight movies has ruined her personal life. "The only way for me not to have somebody know where I went the night before is if I didn't go out at all. So that's what I'm trading," she tells Dennis Hopper in a piece for Interview magazine.

"The sad thing is that I feel so boring because 'Twilight' is literally how every conversation I have these days begins — whether it's someone I'm meeting for the first time or someone I just haven't seen in a while."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brangelina's ice cream trip

HAPPY FAMILY OUTING Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's one-year-old twins, Knox and Vivienne, have rarely been seen in public, but the toddlers were spotted getting ice cream with their famous parents in Amman recently.

Ihab Fakhouri snapped a picture of the smiling family when they visited his Licky Licious ice cream shop, then posted it on Twitter.

"They were walking down the street and saw our shop. Brad stopped and said, 'Do you guys have ice cream?' I said, 'Are you kidding? Of course,'" Fakhouri tells People magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hero star's girl-on-girl request

SPICE UP Hayden Panettiere claims the upcoming lesbian affair her character has on Heroes was all her idea.

"I kinda threw it out there. They put you in relationships and I was like, 'Can I just be with a girl or something? Let's do that,'" the actress says, according to Hollyscoop. "So they took it and ran with it."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cage sued for payback default

TIME TO PAY UP? Nicholas Cage is finding himself on the wrong end of a $2 million US lawsuit, as East West Bank is suing the actor for breach of contract, according to TMZ.

The suit claims that the bank extended Cage a $2 million line of credit in 2007, and that Cage agreed to a payment plan of $11,590 per month.

However, the bank claims the "National Treasure" star hasn't made a payment since April.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Wednesday Showers 70% 14°/ 9°

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Take Five

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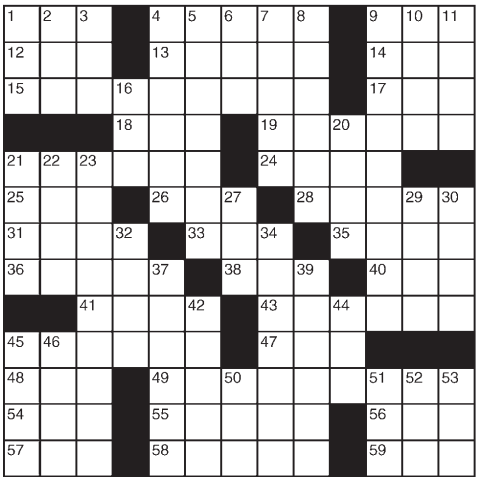


Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2			4	6	7			9
	6				1	8		
				5				
8		5					4	
	3	7				6	5	
	1					2		7
				4				
		1	5				3	
5			6	7	9			8

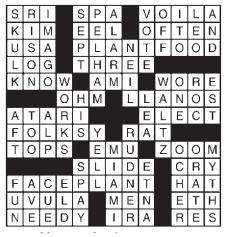
ACROSS

1 Slugger's tool
4 Avocation
9 Despondent
12 Work with
13 Swan Lake role
14 Weeding device
15 Wisconsin city
17 Away from WSW
18 Approvals
19 Hidden marksman
21 Societal levels
24 Engineering sch.
25 "Wha'dja say?"
26 Morning moisture
28 Considers
31 War god
33 Thanksgiving veggie
35 Let fall
36 Old hat
38 Talk on and on
40 Modern-day evidence
41 Be on an angle
43 Arizona city
45 "Heavens!"
47 Jurist Lance
48 Possess
49 "Find the pea" con
54 Scarlet
55 Wear down
56 Visibility hindrance
57 "— Miniver"
58 Related to the moon
59 Pair

DOWN

1 Clear the tables
2 Blond shade
3 Golf prop
4 Addicted
5 Homeric work
6 Ginormous
7 Explosion
8 Had a longing (for)
9 Crèche figures
10 Top-rated
11 Antelope's playmate
16 Automaton, for short
20 On the rocks
21 Punch-ballot bit
22 Emanation
23 Small, stocky ponies
27 Witty one
29 Stereo alternative
30 Bridge
32 Crystal gazer
34 Waltzing girl of song
37 Maiden
39 Culprit in a trite whodunit
42 India's first prime minister
44 Gear tooth
45 Students' quarters
46 Basin accessory
50 A billion years
51 Toward the stern
52 Tend the lawn
53 Id counterpart

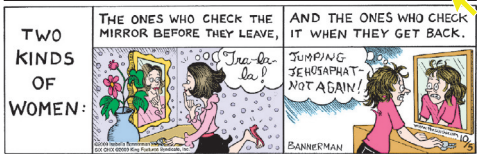
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	2	6	1	3	5	8	9	4
3	9	1	7	8	4	2	5	6
4	5	8	2	9	6	1	3	7
8	6	2	9	5	7	4	1	3
9	3	4	8	6	1	5	7	2
5	1	7	3	4	2	6	8	9
2	8	5	6	7	3	9	4	1
6	4	3	5	1	9	7	2	8
1	7	9	4	2	8	3	6	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Beef Barley Stew

INGREDIENTS:

1-1/2 lbs (750 g) lean beef stew meat, cut into 1/2-in. (1 cm) cubes
1 medium onion, chopped
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
3 cans (14 oz/398 ml) beef broth
1 cup (250 ml) medium pearl barley
1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme
1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried marjoram
1/4 tsp (1 ml) dried rosemary, crushed
1/4 tsp (1 ml) pepper
4 medium carrots, sliced
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh parsley

METHOD:

1. In large pot or Dutch oven, brown meat on all sides and onion in oil over medium-high heat. Add broth, barley and seasonings; bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 1 hour.
2. Add carrots; bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 30-40 minutes or until meat and carrots are tender. Add parsley just before serving.

SERVES 8

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
There are times you enjoy doing things that are random and irregular and that's the mood you'll be in today. You'll have fun if you know when to stop.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will be at your best today. You don't have to take risks but if you do they will pay off and you will gain a new awareness of what is possible in your life.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You'll learn a lot about others today by observing how they react to events. If their initial reaction is panic, then you don't want them on your team.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll likely enjoy the shocks and upheavals taking place around you over the next 24 hours. Others may be fearful, but to you it'll be one big joke.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Anyone who thinks you'll give in at the merest hint of pressure is clearly a bad judge of character; they'll learn it doesn't pay to try and hustle a Leo.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Aim to do something today that shakes up friends, family and colleagues and reminds them you're not the type who can be taken for granted.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Upheavals are likely today but if you stay calm and focus on your long-term goals you will be strengthened rather than weakened by the day's events.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Do something exciting today, something that sets your heart beating faster. Involve other people too: it's more fun when you share.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Don't worry if others disapprove of what you're doing. Most likely it's a sign you're doing it right. You've never been the safe and dependable kind.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may be a class act but people will respond to you better today if you're a little bit outrageous in the things you say and do. Aim to go over the top.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Move with the times today, or lose out to rivals who really are not in your league. There is no reason you shouldn't put your own interests first.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You'll do something crazy today and even those who know you will worry you may be losing your mind. But you know exactly what you are doing.

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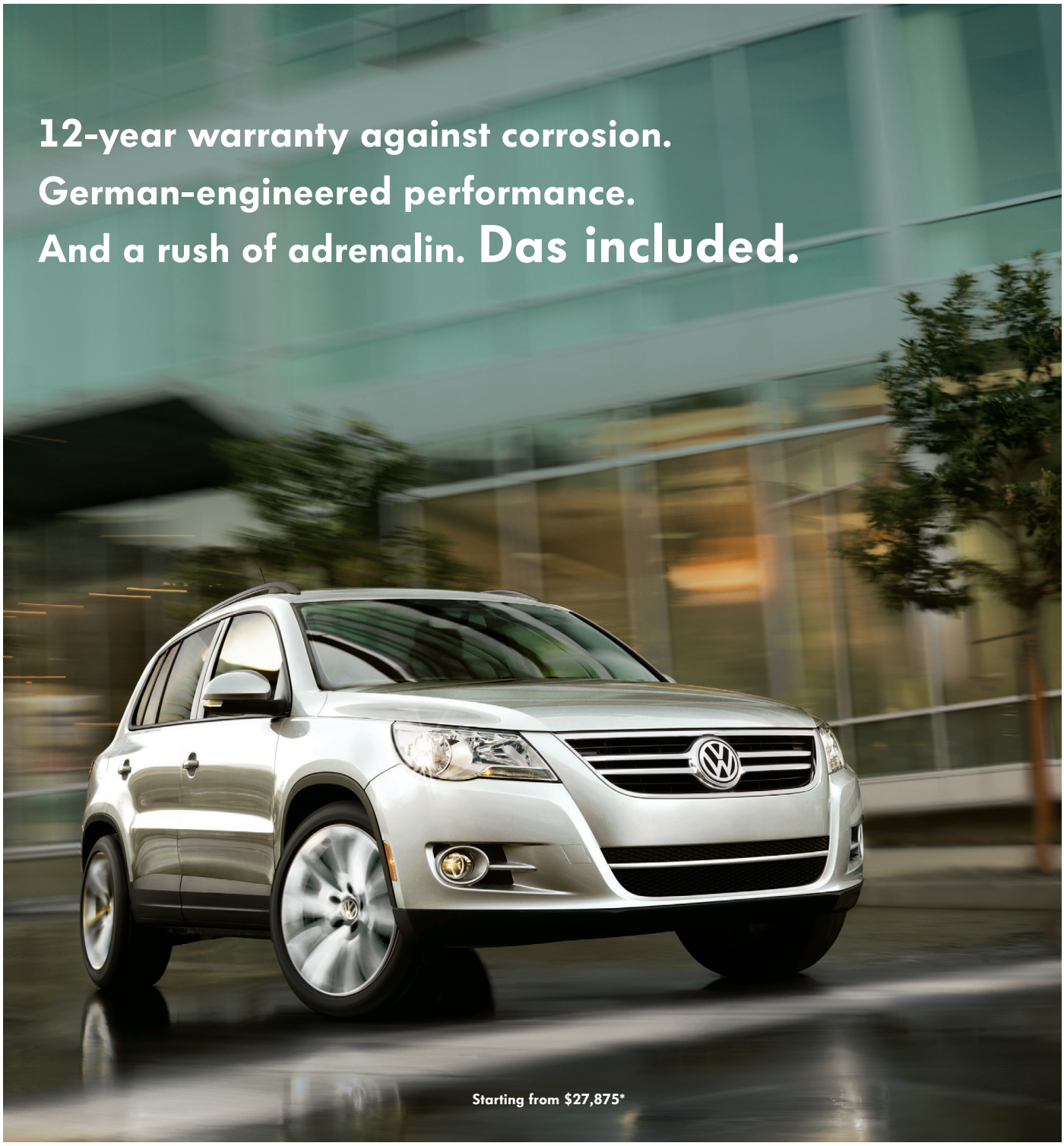

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